

# Africa

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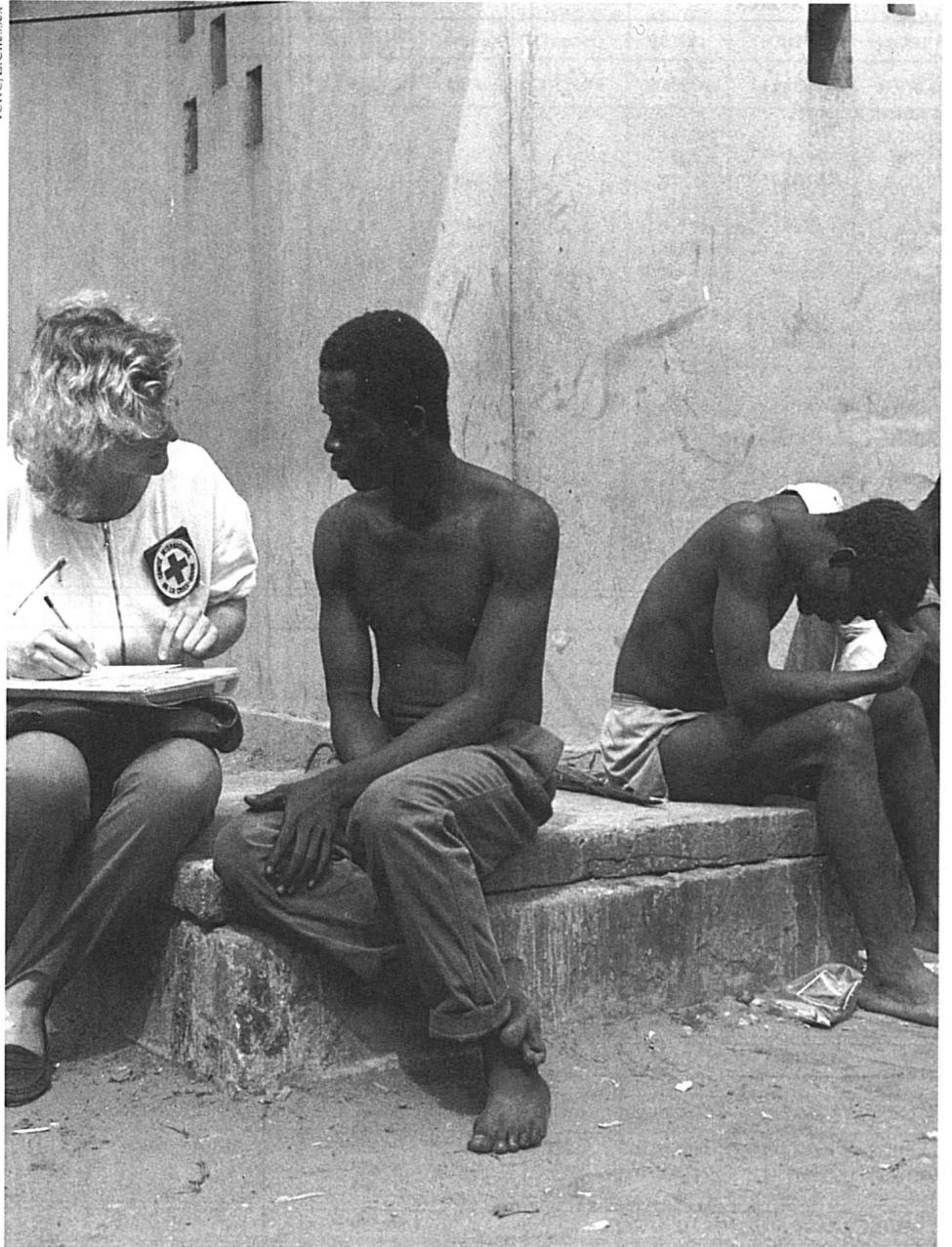
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An ICRC delegate conducts a private interview with detainees in Liberia.

**Central and West Africa**

**ICRC delegations:**

Liberia, Mali

**ICRC regional delegations:**

Abidjan, Dakar, Kinshasa, Lagos, Yaoundé

**Southern Africa**

**ICRC delegations:**

Angola, Mozambique, South Africa

**ICRC regional delegation:**

Harare

**East Africa**

**ICRC delegations:**

Burundi, Ethiopia, Rwanda, Somalia, Sudan, Uganda

**ICRC regional delegation:**

Nairobi

**Staff**

ICRC expatriates\* : 316

National Societies\* : 67

Local employees\*\* : 1,902

**Total expenditure**

CHF 365,004,365

**Expenditure breakdown**

Protection/tracing: 28,019,413

Relief: 251,478,952

Medical assistance: 28,386,823

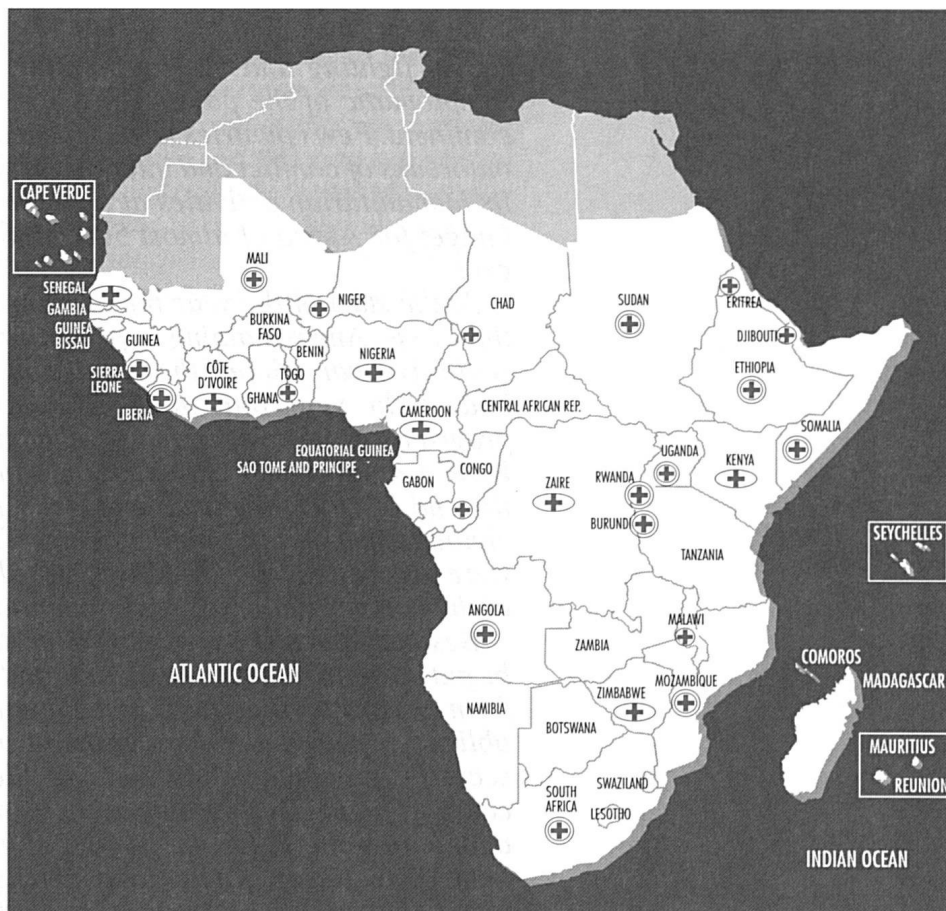
**Cooperation**

with National Societies: 7,239,720

Dissemination: 3,943,724

Operational support: 30,728,233

Overheads: 15,207,500



ICRC / AR 12.93

\* Average numbers calculated on an annual basis.

\*\* Under ICRC contract, as at December 1993.

# AFRICA

*In 1993 new humanitarian needs emerged in a number of countries. Heavy fighting and violent popular discontent in many areas were symptomatic of the power shifts which continued to jolt the African continent. Few countries were at peace during the year, and the various outbreaks of conflict and internal disturbances led the ICRC to pursue its humanitarian activities at an unprecedented level. The year's total budget for Africa of almost 500 million Swiss francs was the highest ever.*

*At the start of the year the conflict in Angola took a major turn for the worse. Any remaining hopes for lasting peace were dashed as full-scale civil war gripped the country once again. It was only towards the end of the year that the ICRC was able to begin its assistance programmes for civilians unreached by other agencies. In Liberia the ICRC's operations went much the same way, and again only towards the end of 1993 was it able to get a programme under way to assist civilians trapped in conflict zones. The ICRC's operations in Sudan were also restricted until May 1993, although the situation in the south of the country required urgent attention.*

*Besides difficulties in getting operations started, which could mainly be put down to logistic constraints and the lack of timely authorizations from parties to the conflicts concerned, the ICRC was temporarily obliged to suspend its activities in a number of places for want of security. Angola, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Somalia were all cases in point. Despite the cautious and carefully planned approach adopted by the ICRC in conflict situations, its constant negotiation with all warring parties and extensive security measures proved insufficient to prevent frequent and often violent attacks on its staff. In carrying out their work two ICRC expatriates and seven of its local employees lost their lives in Africa in security incidents in 1993. The need for the institution's dissemination work thus assumed still greater importance.*

*Extensive dissemination programmes, one of the major activities of the seven regional delegations, were developed all over Africa in 1993, aimed mainly at armed forces and other gun-carriers, but also at much wider audiences including academic circles, schoolchildren, National Societies and the press. A new concept was introduced in Burundi and Rwanda, bringing together various social groups in a panel to explore ways of laying down a universal humanitarian code of conduct that all could abide by. The results of this local solution may well play an important role in the shaping of future ICRC dissemination work.*

*Yet despite the growing humanitarian problems in Africa in 1993, a number of positive developments changed millions of African lives: in*

*South Africa the remnants of apartheid were laid to rest and the nation looked forward to free elections in 1994; in Mozambique the peace found in 1992 stood firm through 1993, despite delays in the demobilization of FRELIMO and RENAMO combatants; in Somalia the many relief organizations bringing food to the starving put an end to widespread famine. But even in those countries where war was giving way to peace the ICRC continued to play its role, whether through detention visits, orthopaedic rehabilitation programmes, an extensive tracing network, or work to train National Societies to be ready to intervene in future emergencies.*

# Central and West Africa

## LIBERIA

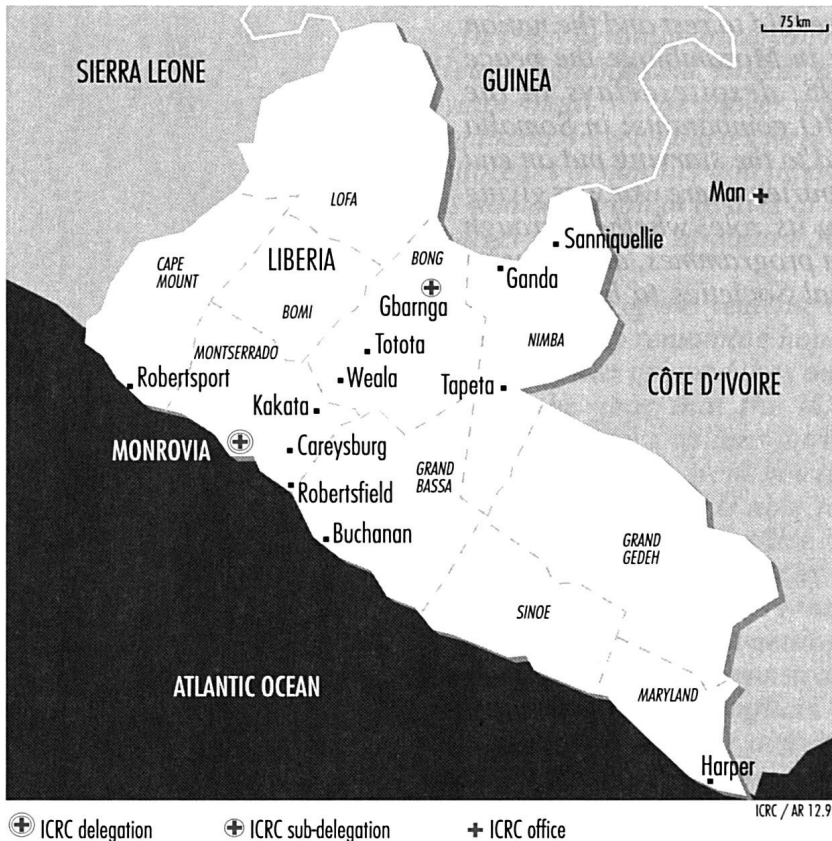
At the start of 1993 the ICRC's humanitarian activities for the victims of the armed conflict in Liberia were severely restricted, largely because of increasingly hazardous conditions throughout the country. In October 1992 the ICRC had been obliged to evacuate its staff from the area controlled by the NPFL\* amid a crescendo of violence and xenophobic feeling.

Fighting between the NPFL and the forces of ECOMOG,\* ULIMO\* and the AFL\* went on throughout the first half of 1993 until 25 July, when the ninth peace agreement between the NPFL, the IGNU\* and ULIMO was signed in Cotonou. The agreement specified among other things that humanitarian agencies be granted access to the civilian population by direct routes and with routine checking of convoys by a joint cease-fire monitoring commission to ensure that the arms embargo was respected. Despite

repeated efforts to obtain security guarantees and authorization from all parties to fulfil its mandate, the ICRC found its operations in rural Liberia blocked until October.

The regional delegation in Abidjan organized a number of missions to Gbarnga, where the NPFL has its headquarters, in order to discuss the possibility of visiting detainees held by the NPFL and the immediate resumption of emergency relief work. During these missions to Gbarnga and central Liberia the ICRC's delegates witnessed entire communities along the roadside living in appalling conditions. Many thousands of displaced people and residents were practically cut off from the outside world and in dire need of assistance.

\* National Patriotic Front of Liberia.  
Monitoring Group of the Economic Community of West Africa.  
United Liberation Movement of Liberia for Democracy.  
Armed Forces of Liberia.  
Interim Government of National Unity.



⊕ ICRC delegation    ⊕ ICRC sub-delegation    + ICRC office

**IN 1993 THE ICRC:**

- made 212 visits to 17 places of detention, where 1,160 detainees were seen and 1,065 of them were registered for the first time;
- provided more than 100,000 civilians affected by the conflict with a total of over 1,000 tonnes of basic necessities;
- provided fresh water supplies for communities affected by the conflict.

Even after the Cotonou agreement only limited access was possible for some months to come, as ECOMOG and the UN insisted on waiting for the creation of a humanitarian corridor leading from Monrovia to Gbarnga.

The go-ahead for ICRC activities thus did not hinge on acceptance by the NPFL alone. Indeed, extensive diplomatic efforts were made in the course of the year to convince ECOMOG and the United Nations that the ICRC's humanitarian work should begin immediately and be carried out according to customary ICRC criteria.

Finally in November the institution was able to start a relief operation for some 65,000 people living in desperate conditions in the area between Totota and Weala on the road from Gbarnga to Kakata.

By the end of the year another two armed groups had appeared on the scene, namely the Liberian Peace Council in the south-east and the Lofa Defence Forces in northern Lofa county. Fighting in both these areas brought yet more humanitarian problems, and in Lofa the resulting nervous and aggressive behaviour of ULIMO fighters forced agencies working there to withdraw.

In the Monrovia area the ICRC was active throughout the year, mainly visiting detainees, supporting local medical facilities and the National Society's ambulance service, assisting displaced people with food and non-food necessities, and coordinating a major campaign to promote respect for international humanitarian law and the red cross emblem. For most of the year, as the ICRC's access to the part of the country controlled by the NPFL was restricted, the institution supported local health facilities there through the Liberian Red Cross in Gbarnga.

### Activities for detainees

As the year progressed, suspected NPFL combatants were taken to detention centres and military prisons. ICRC delegates were given access to all detainees held by ECOMOG, as well as those held by the AFL and by ULIMO. They also supervised the release of detainees and provided those in detention with basic non-food assistance and health care wherever needed.

Over the year the ICRC regularly visited all places of detention and screening centres in Monrovia and in Montserrado, Margibi, Grand Bassa, Bomi and Lofa counties. Two military prisons in Lofa county were also visited. In all, 212 visits were made, whereby 1,160 detainees were seen, including 1,065 who were registered for the first time.

Eleven detainees held by the NPFL in two different places were visited by ICRC delegates for the first time in September. The visits were conducted in accordance with ICRC criteria.

### Assistance for the civilian population

The bulk of the ICRC's relief work in Liberia took place in and around Monrovia for most of the year, as rural Liberia remained inaccessible. Most of

those assisted were displaced people living in camps around the capital, and the ICRC provided them with basic necessities including clothes, blankets, soap and buckets. With the cooperation of the Liberian Red Cross in the area controlled by the NPFL, the ICRC was also able to get non-food relief supplies through to 3,500 displaced people living in rural Liberia. As of November a new large-scale relief programme was started, bringing assistance in a first phase to 65,000 civilians affected by the conflict. In all the ICRC provided more than 1,000 tonnes of food and non-food assistance in Liberia in 1993.

### Medical and sanitation activities

The ICRC's medical activities included the regular monitoring of health care in prison infirmaries and hospitals treating detainees, supplying these establishments with medicines and medical supplies where need be, and providing the detainees there with soap and blankets.

Health care in Liberia continued to be seriously affected by the prevailing instability in the country. The ICRC managed to keep up its regular support to the six dispensaries run by the National Society in rural Liberia, and to other medical facilities in need, thanks to cooperation with the Liberian Red Cross in Gbarnga.

The Liberian Red Cross Society's ambulance service continued to receive ICRC support throughout the year, operating in Monrovia and in rural Liberia.

Water supply was still a major problem in Monrovia in early 1993 and the system of wells and bore-holes set up by the ICRC had to be maintained for some time to come. As a result, new wells were dug, old ones repaired, new pumps were installed, and more latrines were built over the year. The ICRC's water-tanker programme in Monrovia was terminated in July, as the emergency phase came to an end and other agencies took over.

### Tracing activities

At the beginning of the year the delegation initiated a new programme of Red Cross messages, enabling displaced and resident Liberians in Monrovia to send news to their families abroad, mainly in Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea and the United States.

### Dissemination

Once again, getting the ICRC's message across to the numerous parties involved in the Liberian conflict proved to be a major source of concern. In negotiations for access to rural Liberia the institution emphasized the specific nature of its mandate. An intensive dissemination programme for all forces involved in the conflict was carried out, including an extensive radio, newspaper and poster campaign, to promote respect for international humanitarian law. Dissemination activities were directed at a variety of target audiences, in



conjunction with the Liberian Red Cross Society. Special efforts were made to reach the combatants manning the many checkpoints throughout the country.

## MALI

The troubles between Tuareg separatists and government authorities decreased in Mali throughout 1993. The ICRC maintained regular contact during the year with all Tuareg movements and local authorities in order to be able to carry out overland missions and thereby accomplish its mandate as a neutral and impartial intermediary, visiting prisoners, collecting and delivering Red Cross messages, evacuating the wounded and facilitating medical care for the various isolated communities.

By May all the parties to the internal armed conflict had officially accepted a "national pact" in full. This led to an improvement in security in the east of the country, and the process of integrating 600 former rebel fighters into the armed forces of Mali had almost been completed by the end of June.

In the first half of the year the ICRC fell victim to the violence attributed to bandits in Gao and in Ras El Ma, where an ICRC medical post was destroyed. The attacks on ICRC premises hampered the delegation's attempts to build confidence between all communities and forced the ICRC to reduce its medical activities in remote areas.

In the second half of the year the ICRC was again the victim of acts of banditry and a number of its vehicles were stolen in the Timbuktu and Gao regions.

The national army and the Tuareg movements were eventually able to repress the violence and by the end of the year humanitarian organizations were set to resume their activities in the north of Mali. The ICRC subsequently decided that a permanent presence was no longer required in the north of the country and closed its delegation in Bamako on 21 December. Responsibility for keeping watch on developments in Mali, carrying out activities for detainees and dissemination work there and fostering improved cooperation with the Mali Red Cross was henceforth assigned to the regional delegation in Dakar.

### Activities for the civilian population

Through its permanent presence in Gao, Timbuktu and four offices in remote areas the ICRC sought to build confidence both between different communities and between opposition movements and the authorities. When reports of serious violations of basic humanitarian principles proved to be well-founded, the ICRC, in order to avoid a repetition of such incidents, made oral or written representations to all parties involved. On a number of occasions the ICRC requested the authorities or other bodies such as the Cease-fire Commission to take measures to ensure the safety of civilians, who were constantly subjected to attacks. These requests were frequently accepted and carried out successfully.

The ICRC also provided tracing services for families who were otherwise unable to keep in touch, owing to the communications problems caused by the troubles. Most tracing work involved the exchange of Red Cross messages between the north of Mali and Tuareg refugees in Mauritania. Tracing activities were brought to an end in mid-year as the transmission of news through normal channels between Mali and Mauritania became possible.

### Medical activities

The ICRC supported eleven remote health posts in the north, taking them medicine (partly from the Ministry of Health and partly from the ICRC) by air and by road under the protection of the red cross emblem. The ICRC's presence made it possible to reopen a state health post in the north near Lake Faguibine, thus facilitating access to health care for the local population.

About a dozen seriously wounded combatants and civilians were evacuated by air by the ICRC to hospitals in Gao and Bamako.

Medical workshops were held in Bamako in April and May to train 23 National Society first-aiders from remote areas. They all received a three-month stock of medical supplies to help them in their work in the field.

### Activities for detainees

During the year visits were made to different categories of detainees, namely dignitaries from the previous government, including former President Moussa Traoré and his wife, members of the military accused of participating in the attempted *coup* of July 1991, and Tuaregs held in connection with the rebellion in the north of the country. Medical and material assistance was provided to detainees by the ICRC according to needs and reports were submitted to the authorities summing up the ICRC's findings and recommendations. The institution also visited one person detained by rebels.

## NIGER

The Tuareg rebellion in Niger remained a source of great tension in the country during the first half of 1993. After a period of reflection the Niger government gave the ICRC permission to visit Tuareg rebels and sympathizers held in four places of detention by the Ministry of Justice. An ICRC nurse accompanied delegates on these visits, during which the ICRC saw 61 detainees, and a limited amount of material assistance was distributed.

In March the ICRC received a list of 46 officials held by the FLAA\* Tuareg rebel movement. Despite frequent attempts, the delegate based in Niamey was unable to gain access to these detainees. At the beginning of April the ICRC

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\* *Front de libération de l'Aïr et de l'Azawad.*

opened an office in Niamey, in order to have a permanent presence in the country and thus be better able to follow developments. A sub-office was also kept open in Agadez, in the north of the country. The delegation approached the authorities on a number of occasions, with a view to carrying out a field survey in the Air region, which had been closed off to all humanitarian organizations for over a year. Permission was not given.

On 11 April the FLAA released 26 detainees.

At the end of 1993 the ICRC closed its offices in Niger, transferring the coverage of ICRC activities in the country to its regional delegation in Abidjan.

## SIERRA LEONE

The humanitarian problems affecting Sierra Leone became even more acute in 1993, as a direct consequence of the internal armed conflict. Constant changes in the military balance in the east of the country caused further upheavals and displacement of the resident population, who were forced to flee their homes in areas that had been transformed into battlefields. After retaking Koidu, then moving up as far as the districts of Pendembu and Kailahun, previously strongholds of the RUF,\* the government started encouraging civilians who had fled across the border to Liberia to return to Sierra Leone. Almost 5,000 civilians previously under the rebels' control were taken to Daru military barracks for screening by the army. Some were subsequently sent to prison and the others were sent to camps for displaced people at Segbwema and Daru. There were therefore large groups of civilians in the east and south of the country in need of humanitarian assistance.

The capital, too, remained relatively unstable. To commemorate the *coup* of 1992, the Chairman of the National Provisional Ruling Council announced several measures, including the release of 24 detainees from the former government held since the *coup*. They were placed under house arrest after their release.

The year ended with the President presenting the broad outline of a plan to return the country to democratic rule, announcing free elections by 1996, declaring a unilateral cease-fire for the month of December and reconfirming a general amnesty for all opposition groups. However, these efforts were frequently counteracted by *coup* scares, accusations of corruption and, in the case of the December cease-fire, by military setbacks.

### Activities for the civilian population

The year was overshadowed for the ICRC by a fatal security incident in late August. An ICRC convoy was attacked by an armed group on the road from

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\* Revolutionary United Front.



⊕ ICRC sub-delegation    ⊕ ICRC office

ICRC / AR 12.93

Kenema to Zimmi in south-eastern Sierra Leone. Two ICRC nurses were killed, and a third was injured.

Until then the ICRC had been carrying out regular humanitarian activities both in the Zimmi area and in another affected part in the east of the country. Throughout the first half of 1993 the institution had been providing food aid and medical care for 11,000 civilians affected by the conflict in the Zimmi area, giving regular medical consultations, vaccinating under-fives and immunizing young women against tetanus. Seed distributions were also being made.

Similar ICRC programmes were under way in the Daru area, to the north of Zimmi. Civilians in the region between Daru and the Liberian border, which was severely affected by fighting, had been receiving medical assistance from the ICRC, and in view of the poor nutritional condition of the people living there, especially the children, a month's food ration had been distributed in August.

These operations were brought to an abrupt halt by the attack on the ICRC convoy. As the security situation remained unstable,

the ICRC was unable to resume its field activities in the region, and although detention-related and dissemination activities continued in the towns of Bo, Kenema and Daru and limited medical supplies were made available for a local nurse in Zimmi, relief work was suspended as of September.

#### IN 1993 THE ICRC:

- assisted about 50,000 civilians affected by the conflict in Sierra Leone with more than 1,200 tonnes of food and non-food items;
- visited 647 detainees held for security reasons or in connection with the armed conflict;
- carried out a major awareness campaign to promote understanding of the work of the Red Cross and respect for its emblem.

#### Activities for detainees

In February the regional delegate in Abidjan submitted a report to the President on the ICRC's visits to Freetown Central Prison over the past six months, asking for urgent improvements in the conditions of detention.

As government troops advanced into RUF-held territory the number of RUF combatants and suspected sympathizers taken prisoner rose significantly. A favourable response was given to the ICRC's request to have access to detainees held up-country, and thereafter much of the ICRC's work in Sierra Leone over the year was devoted to following up cases of detainees under interrogation or in actual detention. Visits, conducted in accordance with customary ICRC criteria, continued in Freetown Central Prison and began as of June in military barracks

in Bo, Kenema, Koidu and Daru. In some cases material assistance was provided to detainees by the ICRC; otherwise the National Society or charities took care of needs. In all cases the ICRC monitored the health of detainees and provided food aid in Freetown Central Prison.

The ICRC also obtained access, in accordance with ICRC criteria, to people detained by the Criminal Investigation Department in Freetown.

On 15 October renewed visits were carried out in military barracks in Bo, Kenema, Koidu and Daru. The ICRC subsequently submitted a special report to the authorities.

The government released 195 detainees from Freetown Central Prison in November. The authorities asked the ICRC to organize the transport of those freed back to their places of origin. Following preliminary visits by delegates to the areas concerned, the first 153 were taken back to the Bo, Kenema, Segbwema and Daru areas, while the remaining 42 were transported to the Makeni and Massingbi camps for displaced people.

## Dissemination

Over the year the regional delegation in Abidjan, the sub-delegation in Freetown and the office in Kenema worked to spread awareness of the ICRC's specific mandate. In June a three-day seminar on international humanitarian law and the law of war was held for 30 lieutenants and captains of the Sierra Leone armed forces. Another seminar organized with the Sierra Leone Red Cross was held in Freetown for 30 journalists. Following the serious security incident of 27 August described above, dissemination work assumed still greater importance in Sierra Leone.

## ABIDJAN

### Regional delegation

(Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, Liberia, Sierra Leone)

For an account of the ICRC's activities in Liberia and Sierra Leone in 1993, which were coordinated from the Abidjan regional delegation, please see the relevant chapters. As of mid-1993 the Liberia operation was coordinated by an *ad hoc* delegation independent from Abidjan.

## BURKINA FASO

With the support of the regional delegation the Burkinabè Red Cross Society's dissemination and information campaign in the country's military barracks was completed by mid-November. In addition, a week-long campaign was held in Ouagadougou to improve awareness of the red cross emblem, involving door-to-door visits to those misusing it. Also in the capital, a dissemination workshop was held in December for high-ranking civil servants.

## COTE D'IVOIRE

A football match played in Kumasi (Ghana) between Ivorian and Ghanaian teams at the end of October became the unlikely source of mass hostility towards Ghanaians living in Côte d'Ivoire, causing the displacement of over 10,000 people and an unconfirmed number of deaths. As of 6 November two Red Cross medical teams, composed of staff from the Red Cross Society of Côte d'Ivoire, the Federation and the ICRC, made daily visits to a dozen places including police stations and embassy residences, where around 3,500 people had gathered. Some 50 people were given medical treatment by the teams every day, and one-off distributions of clothes, blankets, floor mats and soap were carried out for those in need. The ICRC also provided the National Society with two vehicles and replenished its emergency stocks.

Grand Bassam was the venue for a seminar on communication, planning and methods of dissemination organized by the ICRC in February for members of the National Society working in this domain. The Minister of Health and the Mayor of Grand Bassam also took part.

A further training course for dissemination officers and a special session for teachers were organized with the National Society in April. On 17 and 18 June a seminar was held for 25 officers of the *gendarmerie nationale* on international humanitarian law and policing operations. The authorities subsequently declared their satisfaction with the quality of the course.

## GUINEA

A demonstration at the end of September in Conakry degenerated into a violent confrontation between ethnic groups. The hospitals of the capital were overwhelmed by some 200 casualties, and 18 people were killed. The regional delegation sent a delegate to give practical assistance to the National Society, with a view to making it more effective in the event of emergency situations such as this.

On 19 December Guineans went to the polls in the country's first elections since independence, with eight candidates contesting the presidency. Last-minute calls from the opposition to postpone the elections were ignored by the government, and the fighting that subsequently broke out in the streets of Conakry and Gueckedou left over 200 people injured and claimed at least ten lives, according to local reports. At the end of the year, despite cries of foul play, the Supreme Court confirmed the victory of the previous head of state.

During the election period the Guinean Red Cross Society was very active, evacuating the injured to hospital (111 evacuations on election day alone). An ICRC delegate was on the spot before the vote, in order to assist the National Society. The ICRC provided the National Society's first-aid teams with VHF radios to ensure adequate communication between the teams themselves and

with the fixed station in the ICRC office, where a 24-hour standby service was on call.

Also in December, first talks were held with the head of the Law Department at the University of Conakry in an attempt to introduce and formalize the teaching of international humanitarian law at an academic level.

## DAKAR

### Regional delegation

(Cape Verde, Gambia, Guinea Bissau, Senegal)

## CAPE VERDE

At the end of February the regional delegate carried out a mission to the islands, during which he gave dissemination sessions to the National Society branches in Praia and Mindelo. Following a request from the Red Cross of Cape Verde and in cooperation with the Federation, the ICRC installed an HF radio system on all but one of the islands of the archipelago to link up all the Red Cross sections with each other and with Dakar and Geneva.

On 15 December the National Assembly of Cape Verde acceded to the Protocols additional to the Geneva Conventions.

## GAMBIA

From 7 to 10 June the regional delegate and the Gambia Red Cross Society held a seminar on international humanitarian law for 20 members of the armed forces, the police and the prison service. Throughout the year the ICRC supported the dissemination activities of the National Society.

On 30 November the delegate visited Banjul central prison, where he interviewed two security detainees held in connection with the attempted *coup* in 1981.

## GUINEA BISSAU

On 17 March 1993 the ICRC was given access to all detainees held in connection with a recent attempted *coup*. A first visit was made on 14 and 15 May to 42 detainees, in accordance with customary ICRC criteria. A report on the visit was presented to the Minister of Defence on 28 June. By the end of December a number of these detainees had been released, and visits were made to 13 remaining detainees on 27 and 28 December. Since the first visit in May the detainees had been allowed family visits.

From 11 to 13 May a course in international humanitarian law was given to members of the armed forces of Guinea Bissau. Three officers from Sao Tome and Principe and from Cape Verde also took part.

## SENEGAL

The armed uprising in Casamance continued in the first half of 1993, making Red Cross work in the area indispensable as yet more civilians were displaced by the fighting and in need of assistance. Tragically, in assessing the needs for this assistance, the Red Cross fell victim to a dramatic incident on 25 January, when a vehicle carrying first-aid workers from the Senegalese Red Cross Society went over an anti-tank landmine on the Boulouba road about 30km from Ziguinchor. Six first-aiders were killed outright and five others were rushed to hospital in critical condition, where they were given immediate treatment and subsequently recovered.

Because of the fighting between the Senegalese army and the MFDC\* the number of displaced people went up by tens of thousands. Local reports spoke of more than 300 dead during the clashes.

Despite the new security problem of landmines, the Senegalese Red Cross and the ICRC were able to carry out a food-aid programme for 8,000 displaced people in Ziguinchor, starting in May. The ICRC provided the 80 tonnes of rice and oil required to keep the operation running.

In addition, the ICRC requested access to people captured in connection with this internal armed conflict. Following numerous unsuccessful attempts to obtain an audience with the Minister of the Interior to discuss the matter, an interview was finally arranged with the new incumbent at the beginning of September, by which time a cease-fire had been signed (8 July) between the government and the MFDC, and the 256 detainees held in connection with the conflict had been released. Regarding the question of access to future detainees, the Minister affirmed that the new Senegalese government would be favourably disposed towards requests made by the ICRC.

### Dissemination and information

At the end of March the ICRC and the Union of West African Journalists organized a two-day workshop in Dakar which brought together 15 directors and editors-in-chief of major West African French-language news publications. The ICRC's Delegate General for Africa, accompanied by communications-related staff from ICRC headquarters, was there to answer questions from the participants, who expressed a desire to have a more active working relationship with the ICRC. Agreements to this effect were defined in the course of discussions and working relations were strengthened. Very well attended local press conferences were held jointly with the Senegalese Red Cross Society on the mobilization of humanitarian work in Africa, on landmines and on the International Conference for the Protection of War Victims.

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\* Democratic Front of Casamance Movement.



## KINSHASA

### Regional delegation (Congo, Zaire)

The regional delegation in Kinshasa increased its activities in 1993, responding in various ways to the humanitarian needs engendered by the internal disturbances in parts of Zaire and the Congo. As a result the delegation expanded considerably over the year, from five expatriates in January to 14 in December.

## CONGO

Amid cries of unfair elections in early June, the opposition called people out on to the streets in protest. Shops closed, barricades went up and demonstrations degenerated into violent clashes between supporters of the President and the opposition. Certain parts of town were sealed off and around 2,000 people who had fled the district of Bacongo gathered at the government building. Bacongo had just become the stronghold of the opposition and, like other parts of Brazzaville controlled by the opposition, was fiercely guarded by masked gunmen. During the periods of violence the vehicles of the ICRC and the Congolese Red Cross were the only ones allowed to circulate freely in the divided capital, bringing medicines across the lines and evacuating the sick and wounded to hospital. In some parts of town only ICRC vehicles could gain access.

During the unrest in July the ICRC requested permission to visit people allegedly detained on both sides. However, before this authorization was received, the detainees were released. The delegate based in Brazzaville carried out a survey in Dolésie and Pointe Noire from 19 to 28 August, where disturbances had also been reported, to examine the situation of displaced people in the area and assess any need for visits to detainees. As a result of the delegate's findings, the ICRC decided to support the National Society with a limited relief programme for displaced people in the Dolésie area.

After a brief return to calm in the Congo, following the signing of an agreement between the two opposing parties in Libreville on 4 August, new disturbances broke out in Brazzaville on 1 November. The violence in the streets continued escalating through to the end of December, and some of the parts of town controlled by the opposition were meanwhile defended by other armed militants. The ICRC and the Congolese Red Cross worked under dangerous conditions to evacuate the wounded and pick up dead bodies. No final death toll for the year was available, although between 10 and 15 December alone the city's hospitals registered more than 80 dead. The ICRC, as during the events in previous months, broadcast radio spots calling on the warring parties to respect the Red Cross and allow the first-aid teams' vehicles to circulate freely. The regional delegation provided the National Society with bandage sets and a vehicle, and supplied the city's hospitals with medical material.

Aware that a number of people had reportedly been arrested by government forces for their involvement in the disturbances, the ICRC sought to gain access to them. Unfortunately, despite the delegation's numerous contacts with the authorities, including the Minister of Defence, the Minister of the Interior and the Office of the President, no such visits had been possible by the end of the year.

## Dissemination

In Brazzaville from 16-22 September, representatives of the States of Chad, Central Africa, Cameroon, Gabon and Sao Tome participated in a seminar on the use of the new French version of the ICRC's teaching file on the law of war in national teaching programmes.

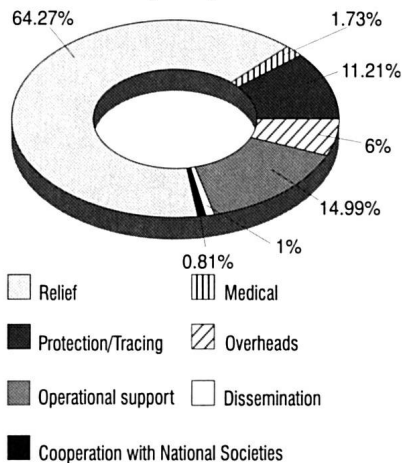
## ZAIRE

During the year Zaire was the scene of popular discontent, mass demonstrations, riots, looting, other outbreaks of violence and worsening socio-economic conditions. Political and ethnic tension and harassment were a source of great human suffering in the Shaba region (Katanga) and in northern Kivu, where the civilian population became embroiled in a complex process of destabilization. The regional delegation maintained regular contact with the authorities in order to remind them of their obligation to ensure the safety and protection of civilians caught up in the different disturbances. Nonetheless, many lives were lost in the course of the year, and over 100,000 people had to flee their homes and live in very difficult and precarious conditions in makeshift camps in Kolwezi and Likasi (Shaba) while waiting to return to their region of origin. Many of these Kasaiian families had lived in Shaba for generations. The ICRC provided them with regular food and non-food assistance.

In Kivu delegates evaluating the possibility of ICRC intervention there in June heard numerous reports of massacres. Many houses had been razed to the ground and thousands of displaced people were seen on the roads and in the villages visited. Protection needs were the ICRC's main concern in this area, along with support to the National Society in the form of first-aid training and the development of sanitation systems. Material assistance was limited to a small-scale distribution of agricultural tools.

Zaire is the largest country in sub-Saharan Africa, covering the same area as most of western Europe. Communications within the country are extremely difficult and rapid access to many places is virtually impossible. The humanitarian problems were therefore all the more worrying, for in a context of economic, social and political instability any further major deterioration of the situation would have catastrophic consequences.

Kinshasa regional delegation  
Total expenditure in 1993:  
CHF 7,650,000



## Kivu

In the Kivu region delegates carried out a series of surveys in June in remote communities affected by a chain of violent attacks, where indigenous tribes were fighting with people of Banyarwanda origin who had lived there often for generations. The delegates were able to ascertain that at least 60,000 people had been displaced but were so widely scattered that any precise count was impossible. As food and medical needs were being covered by the local population, parishes and non-governmental organizations, no ICRC food assistance was deemed necessary, although the institution did continue to monitor the situation there over the year, establishing a permanent presence in Goma in August. The tasks of the delegate based in Goma were to promote respect for the civilian population by the authorities and communities concerned, carry out visits to detainees in the region and help the local branches of the Zaire Red Cross to set up emergency intervention teams.



## Shaba

In the Shaba region a new permanent ICRC presence was established in Kolwezi, where tens of thousands of people of Kasaian origin had gathered while awaiting a possibility to return to the Kasai. Many of the Kasaian people living in Shaba had fled their homes after being threatened and attacked, and had no choice but to try to return to their region of origin, where they would be in greater security.

Following political disturbances, the situation of the Kasaian community in Shaba remained a major concern for the ICRC throughout the whole of 1993. Over 100,000 displaced people in and around the railway stations in the towns of Likasi and Kolwezi, as well as in schools and makeshift camps there, were living in extremely difficult circumstances.

At the very end of June the military authorities began forcibly displacing the Kasaians at the station in Kolwezi, destroying the makeshift shelters that they

### IN 1993 THE ICRC:

- distributed 5,665 tonnes of food and other assistance to around 110,000 people affected by the violence in Shaba.

had built there. The people subsequently fled to other parts of the town, creating new urgent needs in terms of assistance. The ICRC immediately began distributing blankets to those sleeping in the open air, then continued with food distributions right through to the end of the year, when some 80,000 displaced people still remained in Likasi and Kolwezi. A similar, though less violent, military evacuation occurred in Likasi at the end of July. The regional delegate intervened at ministerial level, asking the authorities to give orders to bring an end to the violence and harassment in Shaba and in northern Kivu.

The provision of trains to evacuate the people to the Kasai was a major issue throughout the year. The few departures that were scheduled almost invariably led to distressing scenes of people crowding desperately onto the trains, some dying in the crush or during the long journey to the Kasai. Owing to fuel shortages and other setbacks the trip sometimes lasted several weeks, and the evacuees had to set up temporary camps along the way. Those who were registered to leave were given food rations by the ICRC on their departure.

Further relief supplies were provided by the ICRC to Katangans who had fallen victim to harassment by the military stationed in Kolwezi and the general violence inspired by political militants. Other vulnerable groups assisted by the ICRC included families split up because of their racial mix. In all, the ICRC provided 5,665 tonnes of food and non-food assistance to more than 110,000 beneficiaries in Shaba.

Throughout the year relief distributions frequently had to be suspended for several days at a time in Kolwezi, owing to problems in drawing up reliable lists of beneficiaries and confusion during distributions.

### Activities for detainees

Following the revival of tension in June in Kinshasa, in the Shaba region and in northern Kivu, and with the President's renewed instructions in August for the ICRC's detention-related work to be facilitated, the delegation carried out visits to certain places of detention. Four such places were visited between July and September in Kinshasa and Goma and a total of 24 security detainees were registered (18 at police stations in Goma and 6 at Makala prison in Kinshasa). The ICRC was unable to gain access in Kinshasa to places of detention under the jurisdiction of the presidency.

### Medical activities

In August a nutritional survey was carried out in Kolwezi and in Likasi by a specialist from headquarters. It confirmed the need to continue food distributions to victims in the two towns and to readjust the rations provided to vulnerable groups in Kolwezi, where the nutritional condition of the population was found to be deteriorating.

Following a survey in northern Kivu by an ICRC sanitary engineer, the town of Kanyabayonga received four water pumps and other sanitary supplies from the ICRC.

### Tracing activities

Tracing work at the Kinshasa regional delegation was limited to a small number of tracing requests which were opened for Zairians who were being looked for by their relatives living abroad. Only one file was opened in connection with the problems in Shaba.

### Cooperation with the National Society

Following the events in Shaba, Kivu and Kinshasa, it became necessary to train additional Zaire Red Cross emergency first-aid teams. Since 1992 teams had been receiving training in Kinshasa. This programme was extended to northern Kivu and Shaba in 1993.

### Dissemination

A course on international humanitarian law for instructors of the armed forces of Zaire was held in Kinshasa and Kananga in July. It was attended by some 60 officers from the provinces of Kasai, Shaba, Equateur, Haut-Zaire and Kinshasa.

Further courses in Kinshasa were held on international humanitarian law for 31 high-ranking officers from nine member countries of the Economic Community of Central African States.

## LAGOS

### Regional delegation

(Benin, Ghana, Nigeria, Togo)

The region covered experienced a period of general uncertainty in 1993. Political change in Nigeria and in Togo was by no means straightforward, and led to violence in both cases. This violence also affected Benin and Ghana to a certain extent.

The ICRC responded by stepping up its contacts with political decision-making circles (civilian and military), expanding its international humanitarian law dissemination activities and increasing its support to the emergency response capacity of the National Red Cross Societies of the four countries covered.

## BENIN

The ICRC funded and participated in seven seminars, attended by 120 officers and non-commissioned officers from the Benin armed forces, on the practical application of international humanitarian law on the battlefield.

In cooperation with the Red Cross of Benin, the ICRC launched a campaign on the protection of the emblem. A seminar was held in mid-year for medical and paramedical professionals, government representatives and the media.

## GHANA

The ICRC provided support for a number of dissemination seminars organized by the Ghana Red Cross Society for politicians, government officials, business leaders, officers of the security forces and journalists. The National Society organized fresh water supplies for the Togolese refugees who thronged across the border in January and February.

## NIGERIA

Already affected by a sluggish economy and a number of social problems, Nigeria experienced a year of turbulence in 1993.

The annulment of the presidential election of 12 June brought a growing number of strikes, fuel shortages and civil disturbances similar to those witnessed in 1992. South-western Nigeria was particularly hard hit by riots in July, which caused a high number of casualties. A climate of fear set in, as an outbreak of generalized violence was anticipated at the national level. Changes in the country's leadership ensued, with the President stepping down to be replaced by an interim government which was subsequently replaced by a supreme ruling body, the Provisional Ruling Council, composed of 11 members and dominated by the security forces.

By the end of the year a broad-spectrum civilian government body, the Federal Executive Council, had been installed and talks between prominent Nigerians on major changes to the constitution had been initiated. Statements from the authorities gave rise to hopes for new elections, and the tension that had been pervading the country abated.

During 1993 the ICRC significantly expanded its contacts with the civilian and military decision-making circles within and outside the government. This was accompanied by greater efforts to disseminate international humanitarian law. Lectures were given at key institutions of the security forces such as the Command and Staff College, the National Guard, the Brigade of Guards and the National War College, the highest military teaching establishment in the country. *Ad hoc* briefings on the ICRC and international humanitarian law were given to prominent members of the military hierarchy and to various major unit commanders. At the same time, meetings were organized for the national press.

Over the year the regional delegation continued to support the Nigerian Red Cross Society's emergency preparedness teams. A considerable number of workshops were held, aimed at upgrading the Society's overall capacity. They mainly took place in Lagos and in Kaduna, two cities considered to be particularly susceptible to outbreaks of violence.

In May the Federation and the ICRC had talks with leading representatives of the Nigerian Red Cross in order to establish a plan for its future development. It was agreed that an audit of the National Society would be followed up by two years of management advice by a specialist from the Federation.

## TOGO

Against a backdrop of continuing political malaise and a general strike which had the economy in a stranglehold, three successive waves of internal violence (two in January and the third in March) signalled the start of a particularly difficult year for Togo. The clashes at the beginning of 1993 involving members of the security forces and the public caused a high number of deaths and injuries, especially among the civilian population.

The disturbances triggered off a mass exodus of around 300,000 people, mainly from the Lomé area, who fled across the border to Benin and Ghana or up-country within Togo itself. This put a strain on local resources, which were already barely sufficient to cover existing needs, and had a significant impact on the neighbouring economies of Benin and Ghana. A major relief effort for the refugees became necessary and the three countries' National Societies played an important role in its implementation.

By mid-year negotiations between the government and the opposition held under French and Burkinabè auspices resulted in an agreement that led to presidential elections in August. However, the major opposition groups withdrew their candidates and the election ended in controversy, with the incumbent head of state regaining power. At the end of the year talks were still going on concerning the participation of opposition parties in new elections scheduled for early 1994.

In response to these developments the ICRC sent additional delegates to Togo, intensifying contacts with the various parties concerned and consolidating its support to the Togolese Red Cross. In conjunction with the National Society, delegates organized dissemination sessions for security forces and for members of the public living in volatile areas. In addition, a multi-media campaign on respect for the red cross emblem was carried out.

Support to the National Society included technical advice, the provision of relief supplies, first-aid equipment, communications equipment and financial assistance. The National Society concentrated its activities around Lomé, the focal point of the disturbances, where its first-aid teams were often the only ones in a position to evacuate the many casualties.

## YAOUNDE

### Regional delegation

(Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Equatorial Guinea, Sao Tome and Principe)

Violent clashes occurred in several areas covered by the regional delegation during the year. In addition to providing material assistance to civilians affected by this violence, and making two formal offers of services to visit people detained for security reasons in Chad and in Equatorial Guinea, the delegation in Yaoundé and the sub-delegation in N'Djamena worked throughout the year with the National Societies of the region, supporting and improving their emergency preparedness.

## CAMEROON

At the start of the year the ICRC initiated assistance programmes for civilians affected by internal disturbances in north-western Cameroon, which were sparked off by militant supporters of the opposition who contested the results of presidential elections held in October 1992. Around 300 displaced families were given food and cooking utensils at the end of December 1992 and 77 more families received assistance at the end of January 1993. Further assistance was distributed to around 500 Chadians in the border towns of Touboro and Madingrin in June, who had fled into Cameroon following armed clashes in their home areas in Chad. The refugees were later taken to the UNHCR refugee camp at Poli.

During 1993 the regional delegation carried out an extensive dissemination campaign in Cameroon in order to improve knowledge of the Red Cross among military and civilian authorities and to back up the local committees and branches of the Cameroon Red Cross Society.

A teaching manual for the armed forces, compiled by the general staff unit and printed by the ICRC, was officially introduced in the army.

## CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Refugees fleeing from armed clashes and random killings in the towns of Gore and Doba in southern Chad arrived in the Central African Republic at the beginning of the year. Around 8,000 civilians were given emergency food assistance by the ICRC from January to mid-June through the Central African Red Cross Society in improvised refugee camps near the border, and were able to use the ICRC's tracing service to contact their families. In all, almost 100 tonnes of food and 1,500 cooking pots were distributed among 1,554 families. In addition, a leprosy centre and a feeding centre in Bossangoa received jointly three tonnes of flour and 13 tonnes of beans.



Other tracing work was carried out for Sudanese refugees living in the south-eastern part of Central Africa in the Zemio, Mboki and Obo areas. The Red Cross of Chad handled tracing work for refugees in Chad.

## CHAD

Attempts by the regional delegation to get access to people detained for security reasons in Chad were again unsuccessful in 1993. In January, after more than a year of fruitless negotiations with the relevant authorities, the ICRC made another formal offer of services to visit all places of detention. As there was still no opening in sight, the ICRC submitted a memorandum of understanding to the Presidency and the Sovereign National Conference in March, which then did give the institution the go-ahead for its protection activities for detainees and for civilians affected by the conflict. The authorities allowed and even requested the ICRC to carry out relief activities for civilians displaced or otherwise affected in the south-west of the country and in East Logone. However, permission to visit security detainees was not forthcoming, despite the President's consent in May to give the ICRC access to such detainees.

A national course on international humanitarian law was conducted from 17 to 19 May in N'Djamena for senior army officers of the newly reorganized Chad national army and the *gendarmérie nationale*.

### Activities for the civilian population

Scenes of violence took place in early 1993 between the Republican Guard elite forces and the civilian population in the south of the country, driving thousands of families across the border into Central Africa and Cameroon (see *Central African Republic* and *Cameroon*, above). In addition, thousands more fled up-country, staying within the East Logone region. Conservative reports placed the death toll at several hundred.

During a joint mission there by an ICRC delegate and the Secretary General of the Red Cross of Chad in May and June, a hundred or so villages were found razed to the ground and the ICRC subsequently launched a relief programme for some 80,000 displaced people in East Logone, providing them with seed, tools and food to tide them over and help prevent them becoming in need of long-term assistance. During the programme the ICRC kept an office open in Doba. It was closed in September, when the food situation was deemed to have stabilized enough for the ICRC to terminate its relief programme.

### Medical activities

In N'Djamena on 8 August a ceremony to commemorate the dead from recent tribal armed clashes in Sarh and Abéché in the Ouaddai region degenerated into a horrific day of bloodshed in the capital, leaving 45 dead and 180 wounded,

according to official sources. The ICRC immediately mobilized the National Society's first-aid teams to evacuate the wounded and provided the city's main hospital with urgently needed medical supplies and bandages. The National Society's first-aid teams showed exemplary courage during the turbulence.

At the very end of December 1992 the Kabalaye orthopaedic centre in N'Djamena was placed under the responsibility of SECADEV,\* the ICRC's partner at the centre for twelve years. However, the ICRC provided follow-up support throughout the year, including technical assistance and some financial help.

## EQUATORIAL GUINEA

In February the regional delegate went to Malabo to discuss access to security detainees with the Minister of Justice and the President of the Supreme Tribunal. Once again, the authorities of the country refused to give the ICRC permission to visit places of detention under the control of the national security services.

An information seminar on the principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and the main rules of international humanitarian law was held in Malabo on 1-2 July for senior government officials.

A broad dissemination and information campaign was run throughout the year to stimulate interest among the population for their National Red Cross Society, not yet officially recognized.

In order to enhance the National Society's emergency preparedness the ICRC donated first-aid kits and other items to the branches on Bioko Island and in Rio Muni. Courses on the Movement, basic first aid and emergency preparedness were all given at branch level. In Malabo and Bata a comprehensive hygiene and sanitation programme was launched by the local Red Cross branches.

## Southern Africa

### ANGOLA

Referred to by many as the world's forgotten war, the conflict in Angola claimed tens of thousands of lives in 1993 and caused untold suffering to the civilian population. Owing to the intense and widespread fighting at the beginning of the year the ICRC was unable to carry out its humanitarian work and was obliged to evacuate its expatriate staff from its offices in Huambo and Kuito in mid-January. This was the first time the ICRC had withdrawn from the Planalto since the start of its operations there in 1979.

In quieter areas the ICRC was able to carry out its mandate to a limited extent throughout the year, visiting detainees and offering tracing services.

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\* *Secours catholique et développement.*

On 10 February the ICRC made a solemn appeal to the Angolan government and UNITA\* to respect the rules of international humanitarian law, to ensure that they were enforced and to authorize humanitarian action as a matter of extreme urgency.

Talks between the Angolan government and UNITA at the beginning of February in Addis Ababa broke down in a general atmosphere of disagreement. A number of issues were left pending, including the conclusion of a cease-fire, the second round of presidential elections and the release of prisoners. Further attempts shortly after to bring the parties to the negotiating table were in vain, and calls from the public for a truce and for corridors to be opened to let humanitarian aid in to the civilian population fell on deaf ears, neither of the parties agreeing at the same time to such propositions.

At the beginning of June, after an absence of five months, the ICRC was finally able to re-establish its presence in Huambo, where the fighting had led to large-scale destruction, a lack of medical care and shortages of some essential goods. Eleven tonnes of food and two tonnes of medical supplies were flown in to Huambo and distributed under ICRC supervision to the city's central hospital.

Despite more diplomatic efforts to bring about a cease-fire, the armed conflict in Angola intensified in August, the Angolan government launching a military offensive on the central Planalto on 2 August, singling out the Huambo region.

In an air raid on 4 August the ICRC's office in Huambo, clearly marked by a red cross, was largely destroyed by bombing. The delegate and local employees miraculously survived the attack. The ICRC made a public appeal to the belligerents to guarantee respect for the civilian population, the wounded, prisoners and the red cross emblem. The ICRC also informed the diplomatic representatives of the United States, the Russian Federation and Portugal of violations of international humanitarian law by both sides and requested their help in facilitating access to victims of the conflict.

\* National Union for the Total Independence of Angola.



#### IN 1993 THE ICRC:

- visited 1,234 detainees in 20 places of detention;
- handled 4,986 Red Cross messages;
- distributed emergency medical assistance in hospitals affected by the fighting;
- evacuated 415 foreigners from the war zones.

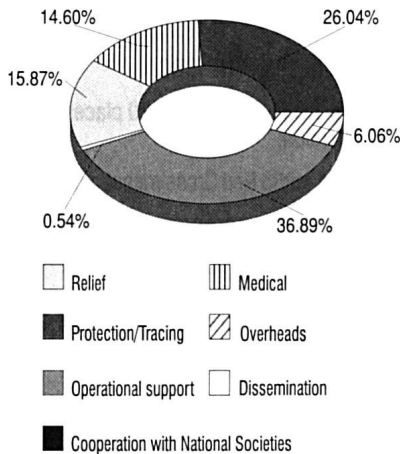
The United Nations Security Council examined the situation in Angola three times, adopting Resolutions 864 and 890, which brought sanctions (arms and oil embargo) against UNITA into effect on 26 September (with the threat that they would be reinforced if UNITA breached the cease-fire and did not resume negotiations on the basis of the Bicesse agreement), favoured dialogue between the warring parties and extended the UNAVEM\* II mandate to 16 March 1994.

In December the peace talks in Lusaka stalled, and the UN special representative in Angola was looking into the matter at the end of the year. Meanwhile, access to practically all parts of Angola had become possible, albeit only by plane in some areas.

The ICRC maintained regular contact with the Angolan government and UNITA throughout the year, *inter alia* in talks between the ICRC President and the Angolan Minister of Assistance and Social Reinsertion in Geneva and between the ICRC's Delegate General for Africa and UNITA representatives in Abidjan.

In November high-level meetings were held between the ICRC and the two warring parties in Huambo and Luanda, resulting in an agreement to allow the ICRC to assist the victims according to needs. A subsequent ICRC survey in Malanje, Menongue and Huambo to prepare for a medical and relief programme in the besieged towns controlled by the government and on UNITA-controlled territory established that the needs were huge, widespread and above all urgent, despite substantial humanitarian efforts by the UN and national and international non-governmental organizations. At the end of December the ICRC was mobilizing relief consignments, and additional personnel were sent from Geneva to reinforce the delegations in Luanda and Huambo and initiate relief work.

Angola  
Total expenditure in 1993:  
CHF 4,810,000



### Activities for detainees

The ICRC visited five places of detention in Luanda and at locations in two provinces: Lubango (Huila province) and Bentiaba (Namibe province). In these places of detention the government was holding either acknowledged or alleged UNITA members and sympathizers, giving some of them the status of "under government protection" or "*sub custodia*". Visits were carried out in accordance with customary ICRC criteria, including private interviews with the detainees. In all, the ICRC made 123 visits to 1,234 people held at 20 different locations, including those under house arrest. Sao Paulo prison in Luanda and Bentiaba camp in Namibe province received periodic food assistance.

In the provinces of Namibe and Huila the authorities freed 197 people in the presence of the ICRC in January and February. In June the Angolan authorities announced that they would release over 200 of the "*sub custodia*" detainees held in Luanda. ICRC delegates spoke to the detainees concerned in private to

\* United Nations Angola Verification Mission.

ascertain where they wished to go after their release. Most of them had chosen locations in the interior of the country, and the ICRC offered to fly them there if both parties agreed. Finally the government released more than 220 civilians in Luanda. Those who did not have relatives to take them in were taken care of by the Ministry of Assistance and Social Welfare and accommodated in a camp known as the *Casa dos Rapazes*, where some 80 people were living in tents. The ICRC provided a large tent for use as a kitchen and health post.

After having received permission from UNITA the ICRC visited some 287 detainees held at three locations in Uige province in April: Uige, Negage and Bungo. Follow-up visits were carried out on 20 October.

### Tracing activities

One of the ICRC's main concerns after the renewed outbreak of hostilities in Angola was the separation of families unable to stay in touch because of a nationwide disruption in communications. The ICRC's tracing service tried to restore family links wherever possible. During the year 3,568 Red Cross messages were exchanged between detainees or people held *sub custodia* and their families, and a further 1,418 were exchanged between family members living within Angola and abroad. The ICRC also worked to trace family members whose whereabouts were unknown to their relatives. During the year 139 people were located.

### Evacuation of foreign nationals

After being approached by foreign governments the ICRC agreed to assist in the evacuation of foreign residents wishing to leave Huambo, provided that an agreement to that effect was reached between the Angolan government and UNITA. Subsequently four flights were organized in June and July to evacuate foreigners in Huambo to Sao Tome and Principe, where they were met by Portuguese officials. A fifth flight took a Namibian and a South African directly to Windhoek. In all, 415 foreigners of 12 different nationalities were evacuated from Huambo by the ICRC.

### Medical activities

Medical work in areas caught up in heavy combat had to be suspended as of mid-January, when the ICRC evacuated its expatriate staff from Huambo and Kuito. Access to the ICRC's local offices in Jamba and Menongue was also impossible after this date.

Nonetheless, an ICRC doctor and nurse made an extensive survey of medical needs in areas where the institution had access. Evaluations were carried out in Uige, N'dalatando, Saurimo, Luena, Benguela, Lobito, Namibe and Lubango. All the health facilities visited were in places where only limited fighting was

going on, and most were already receiving assistance from other agencies. One-off assistance (1.5 tonnes) was therefore provided in hospitals in Saurimo, Benguela, Uige, Luena and Luanda for the treatment of war-wounded, and no further ICRC intervention was considered necessary at that time.

In June the medical coordinator made surveys in several hospitals in the province of Huambo. Five hospitals were visited and essential medical supplies were distributed (Caala, Katchiungo, Donde, Bailundo, Chilumbe).

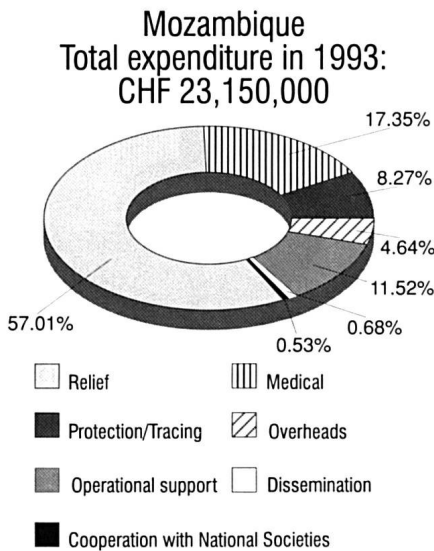
In July the ICRC attempted to send a team of specialists in war surgery from National Societies to the Huambo region. As a result of the government's refusal, the ICRC was unable to organize flights to Huambo and was obliged to cancel the operation.

In Huambo, after the beginning of the government air raids in August, food aid for the patients at the Central Hospital and the distribution of medical supplies to both the Central Hospital and a hospital privately run by the Benguela Railways continued while stocks lasted. Further supplies were also distributed to the hospitals in Donde, Katchiungo, Bailundo, Chilumbe, Longonjo and Ganda. A total of 13 tonnes of food and three tonnes of medical equipment was distributed, mainly in July and August.

The ICRC pursued its medical activities in the detention centres it visited, particularly in the prison of Sao Paulo and in Bentiaba camp (Namibe). The medical team also kept watch on conditions in all places where acknowledged and alleged UNITA members and sympathizers were being held.

Orthopaedic activities came to a halt in Bomba Alta and in Kuito at the beginning of January and had not resumed by the end of the year. The regular assistance programme for amputees was also interrupted in January, following the withdrawal of expatriate personnel for security reasons.

In December the ICRC was in the process of launching a major new medical programme, aimed at rehabilitating health facilities in areas affected by the conflict. A high incidence of malnutrition was noted during field evaluations. A large-scale emergency food relief programme was therefore also started at the very end of the year.



## MOZAMBIQUE

The signing of a general peace agreement in October 1992 brought an end to the 16 years of internal armed conflict and bloodshed that had all but destroyed the very fabric of the Mozambican nation. As heavy rains in December signalled an end to the drought in southern Africa, the Mozambican people had high hopes for peace and prosperity in 1993. To some extent this was accomplished: many refugees returned to Mozambique, harvests were plentiful in a number of regions previously crippled by drought, and the constant terror pervading the country subsided.

Alongside these positive developments, the demobilization of the army and RENAMO\* and the formation of a new national defence force did not come to pass as foreseen, and elections planned for October 1993 were put off for another year. The removal of landmines strewn over the countryside made only slow progress.

There were, however, certain encouraging signs, such as the long-awaited direct talks between the President and the RENAMO leader in Maputo at the end of August and beginning of September. The two men, who met for the first time on Mozambican territory, reached an agreement on regional administration and police control.

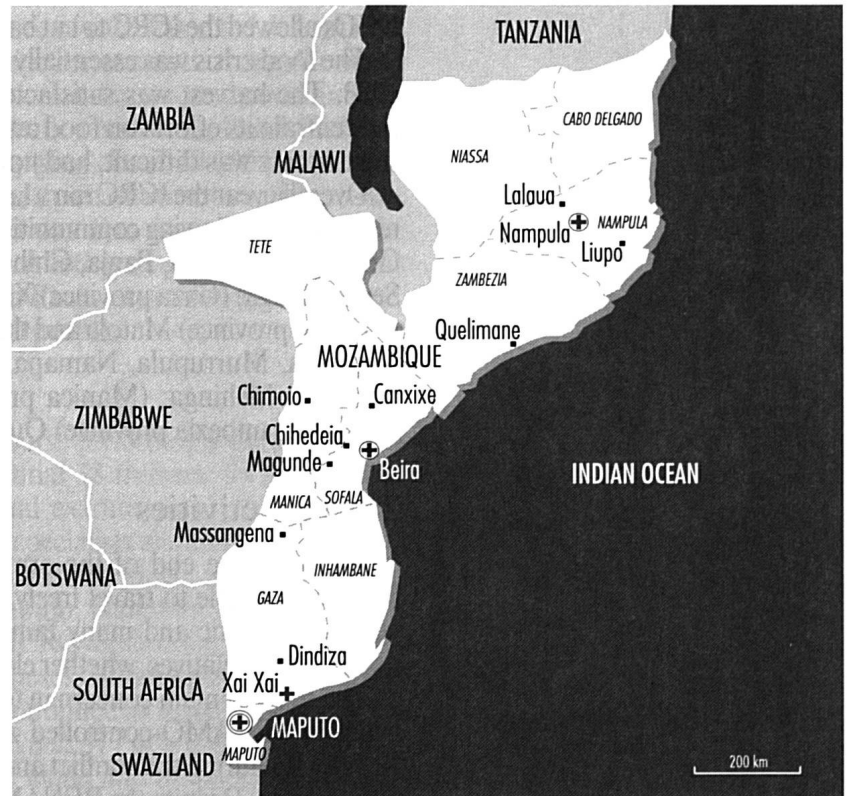
On 13 September the UN Security Council adopted a resolution which called on the parties to stick to the details of the peace agreement signed a year earlier, and to avoid any further delay in holding elections. In mid-October the UN Secretary General came to Maputo to encourage the Mozambican President and the RENAMO leader to ensure that the demobilization process was completed and that elections were held by October 1994.

Stability in the country was once again in the balance at the end of the year, as a number of problems were encountered with the demobilization of government troops and RENAMO combatants.

Against this general background the ICRC went ahead with its plans to reduce its relief programme and to concentrate on medical activities, tracing and the dissemination of international humanitarian law.

## Assistance for the civilian population

Large movements of refugees and displaced people returning home were noted during the year. Many of those who had found refuge in another country, however, were hesitant to return before political reconciliation and troop demobilization actually came into effect. As the year wore on, the arrival of the UN and many



⊕ ICRC delegation

⊕ ICRC sub-delegation

⊕ ICRC office

ICRC / AR 12.93

### IN 1993 THE ICRC:

- provided a fresh water supply for 41,000 beneficiaries;
- assisted over 280,000 people affected by the conflict and drought with 12,545 tonnes of food, 539 tonnes of seed and 377 tonnes of non-food assistance;
- fitted 461 war amputees with orthopaedic devices;
- vaccinated 14,000 children and young women against potentially fatal diseases;
- handled 10,561 Red Cross messages.

\* Mozambican National Resistance Movement.

NGOs allowed the ICRC to cut back its relief activities in easily accessible regions.

The food crisis was essentially on its way to being resolved in the latter half of 1993. The harvest was satisfactory in most provinces, allowing the ICRC to concentrate its efforts on food and non-food distributions in the regions which, since access was difficult, had not benefited from aid in previous months.

Over the year the ICRC ran a large-scale food and non-food relief programme, reaching the following communities: (Sofala province) Beira, Goonda, Magunde, Gorongosa, Canda, Panja, Chihedeia, Nhangera, Canxixe, Palame, Chire and Senga-Senga; (Gaza province) Xai-Xai, Chibuto, Maqueze and Alto Changane; (Maputo province) Matola and the Magude area; (Nampula province) Angoche, Nampula, Murrupula, Namapa, Alua, Namige, Quinga and Liupo; (Niassa province) Lichinga; (Manica province) Chimoio; (Cabo Delgado province) Pemba; (Zambezia province) Quelimane, Ile and Inhassunge.

### Tracing activities

Although the end of the armed conflict meant that people were at least theoretically able to travel freely around the country, communication was still very problematic and many families turned to the ICRC's tracing service for news of their relatives, whether elsewhere in Mozambique or in another country.

The ICRC's main concern in terms of tracing were the thousands of children living in RENAMO-controlled zones, many of whom had been captured by RENAMO during the conflict and were now looking for any relatives who could take them in. Despite the RENAMO leader's personal assurance that the ICRC could go ahead with this delicate tracing work, numerous problems were encountered in connection with the transfer of these children out of RENAMO areas, and by the end of the year only 800 of them had been reunited with their families, whether through the ICRC or by other means. The ICRC's tracing service registered some 3,000 of the children during the year.

### Medical and sanitation activities

The ICRC continued its ongoing programme of rehabilitating medical facilities damaged or even completely destroyed during the conflict, creating facilities where they did not exist, and providing local training in medical care so as to give as many civilians as possible access to basic health services.

In addition a major immunization campaign was carried out in cooperation with UNICEF. Vaccinations were carried out at the same time as food distributions, enabling large numbers of people to be reached. In all, 11,000 children under five were treated against polio, measles, tetanus, diphtheria and whooping cough, and 3,000 women of child-bearing age were vaccinated against tetanus.



As proper health care implies a reliable source of safe water, the delegation's sanitation engineer organized the rehabilitation or creation of regular water supplies in health facilities, in places of detention and in isolated communities. Two major projects financed by a special rehabilitation fund of the Dutch Embassy were completed in Maqueze and Mapai, supplying about 19,000 people with drinking water. A third project involving the transport of water by tankers to the community of Chicualacuala (12,000 people) was also carried out under the supervision of the ICRC's sanitation engineer. Another major achievement was the completion of five deep boreholes in the Panja area of Sofala province, bringing fresh water to a community of 10,000 people.

### Orthopaedic activities

After three years of training, the ICRC's course for orthopaedic technicians in Beira came to an end in March. Of the initial 38 trainees, 23 successfully completed the course and passed their final examinations on 20 March, supervised by three Mozambican orthopaedic specialists and three other experts from outside the country; they were subsequently integrated as technicians in the ICRC's orthopaedic centres in Beira, Maputo, Nampula and Quelimane. The ultimate aim is for them to take over as the ICRC winds down its involvement.

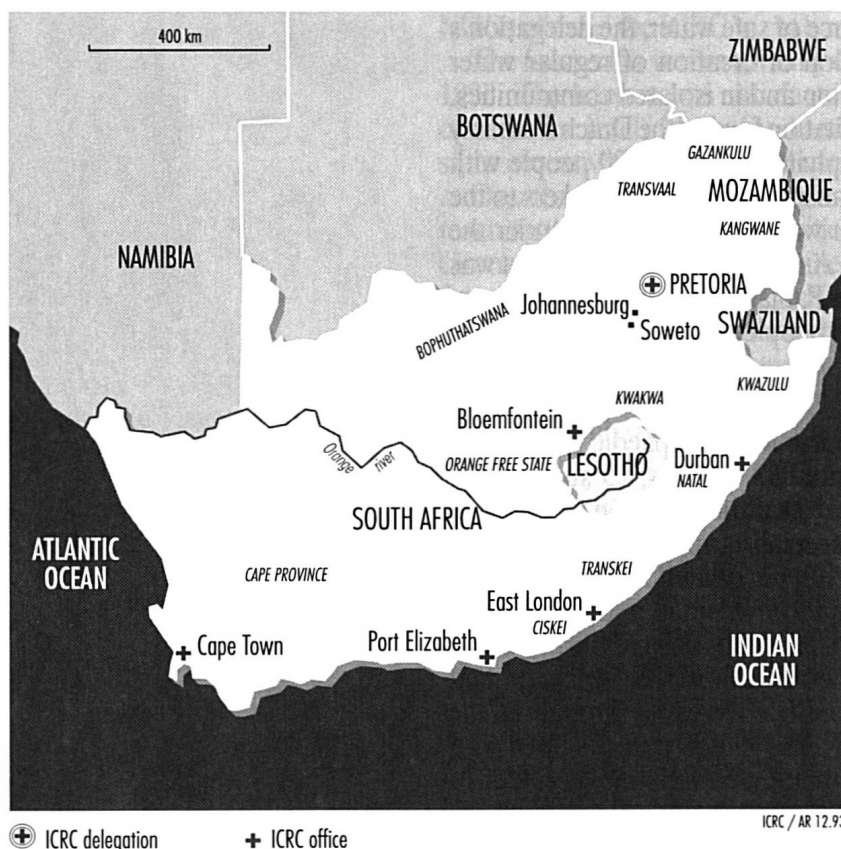
In the meantime, the production of prostheses, orthoses, wheelchairs and crutches, and repairs to orthopaedic devices continued as usual throughout the year. In all, 917 prostheses were manufactured and 377 new patients fitted with these devices. As regards orthoses, 106 were made and 84 patients fitted. In addition, 2,011 pairs of crutches were manufactured.

### SOUTH AFRICA

The remnants of South Africa's system of apartheid were completely dismantled in 1993, paving the way for the first democratic elections there, scheduled for 27 April 1994. A law was passed in December to return South African citizenship to residents of the homelands as of 1 January 1994. New confidence was given to the country's ailing economy when the international community lifted its economic sanctions on South Africa, where an estimated 50% or more of the workforce are unemployed. The adoption of a new temporary constitution and the installation of a Transitional Executive Council in December reinforced the moves towards democracy, and, also in December, the Nobel Peace Prize was presented jointly to the President and the president of the ANC,\* for their efforts in bringing peace to South Africa.

Yet the positive changes to the nation's political make-up were to some extent offset by the internal violence which continued to plague the country. In addition

\* African National Congress.



to the growing unrest in the homelands and townships, the South African people had to deal with a much higher incidence of general crime and politically motivated attacks.

As a result of the increase in violence over the year, thousands of people lost their lives. Some 1,200 people were reported killed in July and August alone in the East Rand. Approximately 46,500 people, the vast majority in Natal, were assisted in a joint relief operation by the ICRC and the South African Red Cross Society. In carrying out their work, ICRC field officers and delegates, and National Society staff and volunteers found themselves in a situation of heightened political division, intolerance, intimidation, threats of civil war and racial attacks.

Indeed, the ICRC was extremely concerned about the growing number of abuses of the red cross emblem. A number of security incidents occurred in the course of the year, including the attempted theft of a Red Cross vehicle in Inanda in early July, the theft at gunpoint of a vehicle at Umlazi, and a narrow escape for an ICRC field

officer whose vehicle was twice caught in cross-fire during fighting in Ezakheni township in August. The ICRC delegation and the various National Society regional offices discussed procedures for staff and volunteers working in dangerous areas, and delegates intensified contacts with political parties and alliances to explain the role of the Red Cross.

As the rise in violence required an increase in ICRC activities, the delegation opened three new offices in 1993, in Cape Town, Port Elizabeth and Bloemfontein, in addition to the already existing offices in Durban, East London and Pretoria.

The ICRC's visits to places of detention continued smoothly throughout the year, encompassing all categories of detainees and prisoners held in South Africa, including the homelands.

### Activities for detainees

The first phase of unannounced visits to police stations in South Africa, begun in autumn 1992, was completed by the submission of a summary report on

#### IN 1993 THE ICRC:

- made 22 visits to 18 prisons;
- made 534 visits to 303 police stations in South Africa and the homelands;
- assisted 46,500 victims of violence in the townships and homelands with 130 tonnes of food and non-food relief items;
- handled 494 Red Cross messages in connection with Mozambican and other refugees in South Africa.

1 March to the Minister of Law and Order and the Commissioner of the South African Police (SAP). The report, which covered the period from 22 October 1992 to 31 January 1993 and included the findings and observations of delegates during 94 visits to 70 police stations in six SAP regions, was discussed with the authorities at various levels, and the SAP pledged to continue its cooperation with the ICRC. Throughout the year unannounced visits continued on a regular basis, and in all, 534 visits were made to 303 police stations.

In January the delegation recommenced its visits to South African prisons, deferred from September 1992 when "political" prisoners were being released. By the end of June the ICRC had completed the first phase of its visits to sentenced prisoners in eight prisons in the towns of Port Elizabeth, Baviaanspoort, Pretoria, Barberton, Pietermaritzburg and Durban. Reports on the conditions of detention were subsequently sent to the Department of Correctional Services. Sixty-eight further visits were made to 40 prison sections for detainees awaiting trial. Delegates always had private interviews with the detainees and prisoners.

In several homelands the ICRC met senior members of the respective police forces and other officials to discuss the ICRC's protection work for prisoners and detainees. In 1993 a total of 103 visits were made to 71 places of detention in the homelands (Bophuthatswana: 29 visits to 18 places of detention; Ciskei: 10 visits to eight places; Transkei: 39 visits to 29 places; KwaZulu: 25 visits to 16 places).

## Assistance for victims of internal violence

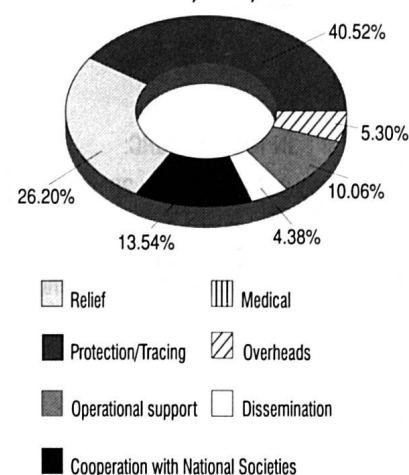
The places worst hit by violence during 1993 were the townships of the Reef and the province of Natal. In Natal the death toll was reported at over 200 per month, the highest it had been in three years. The most violent areas were townships and rural communities around Durban where affected families and displaced people were assisted by the ICRC and the South African Red Cross.

The ICRC and the National Society worked together to bring assistance to the victims of the unrest throughout the year. Despite the considerable risks involved, Red Cross teams stepped up their presence at potentially violent events such as marches, demonstrations and funerals, ready to give first aid and evacuate the seriously injured to hospital. Red Cross first-aid training for the population was an ongoing activity in townships and rural areas.

Relief assistance for victims of violence during 1993 was provided to around 46,500 people, and included food, blankets and kitchen utensils.

A concerted effort was made by the ICRC and the South African Red Cross during the second quarter of 1993 to upgrade their assistance to the victims of the unrest. Three new ICRC offices were opened in Cape Town, Port Elizabeth and Bloemfontein, and paramedical teams were deployed at major areas of potential conflict around the country. Ten such teams, comprising over 100

South Africa  
Total expenditure in 1993:  
CHF 10,480,000



volunteers, were mobilized on Sharpeville Day (21 March) and during the funeral of Chris Hani, a well-known ANC politician, who was assassinated in April.

Besides material assistance, the ICRC and the National Society issued burial vouchers to families, in order to help them provide a dignified burial for their dead.

### Other relief activities

The Red Cross assistance programmes for Mozambican refugees continued over the first half of the year, with a total of 5,472 arrivals being recorded. This programme was terminated in June.

Following the significant consolidation of the peace process in Mozambique, new arrivals of refugees dropped considerably in number. At this point UNHCR reached an agreement with the South African government to start repatriating the refugees to Mozambique.

### Tracing activities

During the year tracing activities centred on the exchange of Red Cross messages between the refugee population in the Gazankulu and KaNgwane homelands and their families in Mozambique. Four hundred and ninety-four such messages were exchanged in 1993.

## HARARE

### Regional delegation

(Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Namibia, Swaziland, Zambia, Zimbabwe)

In 1993 the main emphasis in the work of the ICRC's regional delegation in Harare shifted from the problem of Mozambican refugees in the region to the pursuit of detention-related activities in Malawi.

### MALAWI

In March the regional delegate went to Blantyre, where he met the Secretary of the Office of the President and Cabinet to discuss ICRC detention-related activities and the possibility of Malawi signing a headquarters agreement, enabling an ICRC delegation to be posted there. The delegate drew the Minister's attention to the results of the first series of visits to Malawi's 26 jails, which had been started in August 1992 and only just completed.

Having established a permanent presence in Blantyre, the ICRC was in a better position to follow developments in the country.

#### IN 1993 THE ICRC:

- visited 342 detainees in 26 prisons in Malawi;
- handled 11,494 Red Cross messages for Mozambican refugees in the region.

In a referendum on 14 June the Malawian people voted in favour of adopting a multi-party system. The poor health of the President led to the creation of a Presidential Council in October to run the country. The regional delegate returned to Malawi in November, where the Council confirmed its willingness to work with the ICRC, adding that the matter of visits to police stations would be expedited. The Council also announced that the prison service no longer came under the jurisdiction of the police, but was now controlled by the new Minister of the Interior.

Clashes between the “Young Pioneers” of the Malawi Congress Party and the army broke out in Lilongwe on 3 December, killing 22 people and leaving over a hundred injured. Confusion then reigned as the state radio announced on 7 December that the President was feeling better and was ready to return to office, and that the Presidential Council was therefore dissolved. The statement was received with some scepticism, as no one had actually seen the President to confirm his spectacular recovery. The opposition called for a general strike, calling for amendments to the constitution to allow for the nomination of a new interim President. The Supreme Court prohibited the strike, which was planned for 13 December. In the midst of this confusion two ICRC delegates took steps to visit some 20 or so people allegedly detained by the army in connection with the recent internal unrest. The army informed them that the people in question had all been handed over to the police, who in turn had already freed the majority of them. The three remaining in custody on charges of murder were visited by the delegates in accordance with the usual ICRC procedure.

By the end of the year the situation had become calm once again.

## Activities for detainees

ICRC prison visits in Malawi to assess the material and psychological conditions of detention and the treatment of prisoners continued.

During 1993 the ICRC carried out visits to 26 prisons, some of them several times, where 342 prisoners within its mandate were visited. Newly registered prisoners seen during the year numbered 196, bringing the total up to 504 since the start of the ICRC's visits in August 1992. A comprehensive report was handed over to the country's highest authorities during the regional delegate's visit in July.

Visits to police stations unfortunately never materialized, although the Chief of Police had given his approval in January for ICRC delegates to have access to specifically named detainees held there and despite repeated attempts by the regional delegation at the highest levels to gain access.

Various relief items were distributed in order to improve conditions of hygiene in prisons in Malawi, including plastic buckets and basins, jerrycans, brooms, mops, soap and disinfectant. Blankets and footballs were also distributed.

Sanitation projects included the refurbishment of the kitchens in Maula and Zomba prisons, and the sinking of a borehole at Mikuyu II prison.

## NAMIBIA

In June the ICRC handed over to the government of Namibia the final report on missing Namibians in connection with the struggle for independence, thus bringing to an end the ICRC's mandate to act as an intermediary between the families of missing Namibians and SWAPO.

In March the Namibia Red Cross was officially recognized by the ICRC.

## SWAZILAND

In December the regional delegate visited the new Swazi authorities. Accession to the Additional Protocols was discussed with and welcomed by the Prime Minister and the Minister for Foreign Affairs. The ICRC's dissemination work and emergency preparedness activities for the Baphalali Swaziland Red Cross Society were both complimented. During his visit to Mbabane the regional delegate also met representatives of the National Society. Its tracing work in connection with the 25,000 Mozambican refugees living in the country received ICRC support throughout the year.

## ZIMBABWE

As the year progressed, the number of Mozambican asylum seekers crossing into Zimbabwe and other surrounding countries continued to decrease, mainly thanks to the improvement in the political situation in Mozambique since the signing of the peace accord in Rome in October 1992, but also thanks to better rainfall and more food distributions from the ICRC, the United Nations and non-governmental organizations in the country. The mobile teams set up by the ICRC and the Zimbabwe Red Cross Society were therefore less and less in demand, transporting only a few asylum seekers to refugee camps further up-country, mainly Nyangombe and Chambuta, and the decision was taken at the beginning of the year to keep only one mobile team operational along the border. As refugees started moving back in large numbers there was no longer any need for this last team as from the end of June. Relief activities in this domain were thus phased out. The ICRC worked together with the National Society to provide tracing services for the 140,000 Mozambican refugees living in Zimbabwe (figure corresponds to number of refugees at the beginning of 1993).

In July a visit was made to Zimbabwe by Princess Diana, the patron of British Red Cross Youth. She was given a presentation on the Red Cross's work by the regional delegates of the ICRC and the Federation and the Secretary General of the Zimbabwe Red Cross Society.

## Dissemination

From 21-26 August a one-week workshop was held in Harare for information officers of the region's National Societies. Participants came from Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland and Zambia, as well as from the ICRC delegations in Pretoria and Luanda. The workshop dealt with the production of newsletters and radio and TV programmes, and ways of promoting the activities of the Movement through the media.

A workshop to introduce the teaching file *Law of War* was organized in Harare from 13-15 September by the delegate responsible for dissemination to the armed forces in Africa. Twenty-seven senior military instructors from 10 African countries participated (Botswana, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Namibia, Swaziland, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe). The workshop was opened by the Zimbabwe Defence Secretary and one of the resource persons was the head of Defence and Security at the Organization of African Unity. The workshop was covered by the main media.

At the request of the Royal Swaziland Police College, the ICRC's emergency preparedness and response coordinator presented the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement at a course for commanding officers in Mbabane.

An important seminar on human rights and international humanitarian law was organized by the Raoul Wallenberg Institute with ICRC participation from 29 November to 3 December in Harare. Seventy members of official services took part, including representatives of the Ministries of the Interior, Justice, Foreign Affairs and Defence, the police, the prison service and the Attorney General. Most participants, brought together for the first time in their careers, voiced a keen interest in the ICRC's work. The regional delegate gave a number of press interviews during the seminar week.

## East Africa

### BURUNDI

The situation in Burundi changed radically in the course of 1993, and the ICRC's humanitarian activities there changed accordingly. The sub-delegation in Bujumbura, attached to the delegation in Kigali in neighbouring Rwanda, continued its detention-related activities in the country's 11 prisons and in four police stations until September, when the new government declared a general amnesty for all state security offenders captured before June 1993, the month it took office. Also in June the Burundi government acceded to the Protocols additional to the Geneva Conventions, with effect from December.



Despite an abortive military *coup* at the beginning of July the transition from 26 years of single-party Tutsi rule to multi-party ethnically mixed democracy was mainly calm. The military *coup* attempt on 21 October, resulting in the assassination of the country's first democratically elected Hutu president and a number of his ministers, was therefore all the more unexpected.

The ensuing public outrage led to spiralling violence and ethnic clashes, primarily between the country's two main ethnic groups, the Hutu and the Tutsi, but also involving political interests of various parties. The violence spread quickly to a number of areas, particularly in northern, central and eastern parts of the country, and horrifying reports of brutal massacres filled the press. The international community was shocked by the high number of deaths and called for an end to the massacres. The ICRC took up immediate contact with the government and the military, asking them to use their influence to restore calm among the population. A note to this effect was sent to the Minister of Defence on 3 November.

In the meantime the ICRC began emergency relief and medical operations without delay to alleviate the suffering of the civilian population as far as possible, and by its constant presence helped to protect civilians.

In December the situation was still unstable, though much calmer. The Minister of Defence informed the head of the ICRC's mission in Bujumbura that pacification sessions had already started being held throughout the country. Yet by the end of the year only some of the estimated 600,000 refugees who had fled to neighbouring countries and were living there in precarious conditions were starting to return to Burundi.

### Activities for the civilian population

The new turn of events in Burundi meant that the ICRC's permanent expatriate presence had to be stepped up. Additional delegates and surgical staff were rushed in from Kigali, Nairobi and Geneva. Their regular presence in the rural communities

#### IN 1993 THE ICRC:

- evacuated the seriously wounded to hospital from rural areas;
- provided hospitals and other health structures with medical supplies;
- distributed emergency non-food items to 200,000 displaced people;
- visited 290 security detainees.



undoubtedly served to reduce tension between the conflicting parties, but by the end of the year, although the surge of violence in October and November had subsided, small numbers of people were still being killed and patients with fresh wounds were still arriving at the hospitals. The ICRC approached the authorities on several occasions in connection with ill-treatment of the civilian population, asking them to ensure that basic humanitarian principles were fully respected. The delegation also sent a circular to non-governmental organizations to explain the correct use of the red cross emblem, as laid down in international humanitarian law.

In Burundi and in the refugee camps in neighbouring countries, many families split up by the fighting were able to find their relatives through the ICRC's tracing service. The ICRC arranged for families to be reunited and forwarded Red Cross and "Anxious for News" messages between family members.

In the course of the ICRC's relief programme for civilians affected by the violence, 55,000 blankets, 15,000 sq.m of plastic sheeting used for shelter, 10,000 water containers and 5 tonnes of soap were distributed to some 200,000 people displaced within Burundi.

In November the ICRC carried out an agro-nutritional survey to define a future programme of seed and tool distributions intended to enable the population affected by the conflict to regain its nutritional self-sufficiency.

### Medical activities

During the periods of violence the ICRC was able to travel unhindered over Burundi territory and the red cross emblem was consistently respected.

Wherever possible the ICRC's mobile teams treated wounded people by the roadside, and in addition they managed to evacuate a total of around 300 seriously injured people to hospital. From their constant contact with local communities they learned that a large number of people with injuries were hiding in the hills and afraid to come to hospital for fear of falling into the hands of the enemy. They were also informed that many thousands had died. The ICRC consequently broadcast regular radio messages informing the public of when and where the mobile medical teams would be passing through. In this way the teams were able to pick up the wounded and transport them to hospital under the protection of the red cross emblem. Delegates continued to visit these patients in hospital at regular intervals in order to afford them greater protection.

In addition to this urgent work, the teams evaluated needs in local hospitals and provided them with medicines and other medical requisites. Some 13.6 tonnes of medical supplies were dispatched to Burundi for this purpose, including half a million antibiotic tablets to combat a countrywide dysentery epidemic.

The ICRC also had a surgical team working full time in the hospital of Kibuye, while in Kirembe a team seconded by the Swiss Disaster Relief Unit worked as part of the ICRC operation from 23 November to 14 December.

In two camps for Burundi refugees in Rwanda, the ICRC carried out sanitation work to provide safe drinking water and avert the high risk of contamination. Drinking water was also provided for the hospital in Kirundo.

### Activities for detainees

The approaching elections in June led to a rise in tension towards the end of March and a number of arrests.

In this context the ICRC stepped up its visits to places of detention throughout Burundi so as to see any new detainees as quickly as possible. In all, the delegation in Bujumbura visited 290 security detainees all over the country, including people held in connection with the attempted *coup* of March 1992.

Following the change of government in July the country's new National Assembly met in September and a general amnesty was finally signed on 9 September. All detainees of concern to the ICRC, along with many other common law prisoners, were thereupon released, with the exception of eight members of the military who had been captured after the attempted *coup* on 3 July 1993. In all, 2,084 detainees were freed, 180 of whom came within the ICRC's mandate.

The ICRC gave material assistance and transport on an individual basis to released detainees upon request. By the end of September some 150 people had benefited from this assistance.

In September the head of delegation in Rwanda, who was also responsible for the ICRC's operations in Burundi, met the Prime Minister and the Minister of External Relations to seek confirmation of the Burundi government's willingness to let the ICRC visit security detainees in the future, should the need arise. Soon after, the Burundi authorities signed a headquarters agreement with the ICRC for the establishment of a delegation there.

### Dissemination

Throughout the year the ICRC spread knowledge of international humanitarian law and the fundamental principles of the Red Cross through a variety of means. At the end of March a course was held on the law of war for 31 senior officers of the Burundi armed forces. The Red Cross awareness campaign was also extended to political parties, to schoolchildren and to journalists, and was then conducted on a much broader scale after the events of October. At this stage the ICRC used national radio to explain the role of the institution and call for respect for basic humanitarian principles.

At Red Cross branches in Bujumbura, Kirundo, Muyinga and Ngozi the ICRC held workshops to train local volunteers in the activities of the Red Cross and to encourage the branches to set up first aid teams.

Towards the end of the year the ICRC brought together a panel composed of representatives of different social groups in order to exchange ideas on

humanitarian principles. The aim of the panel was for the different parties to agree on a general code of humanitarian conduct that would be acceptable to all, thereby promoting respect for human life and human dignity in an effective and universally applicable way.

## ERITREA

The first few months of 1993 were dominated by preparations for the referendum on Eritrea's independence, scheduled for 23-25 April. The ICRC provided first aid material to the "Red Cross Society of Eritrea", whose volunteers were to be present at many of the 1,500 polling stations during the three-day vote. Fortunately the referendum went smoothly without any violent incidents, and there was no need for first aid intervention. On 24 May Eritrea officially became Africa's 52nd State.

The ICRC's main activities in Eritrea were its involvement in orthopaedic rehabilitation and support to the National Society. At the orthopaedic workshop in Asmara a total of 503 prostheses and 17 orthoses were produced in 1993, and 520 patients were fitted with orthopaedic devices. In addition, 138 pairs of crutches were made, and 428 major repairs to orthopaedic appliances were carried out.

The ICRC gave financial assistance to the National Society for the first four months of the year, after which the Federation took over the costs of this support. Discussions were held between the ICRC and the National Society during the year concerning cooperation in the fields of dissemination, tracing activities and first aid. In September a member of the Committee, the ICRC's governing board, visited Eritrea and had talks with representatives of the Red Cross there.

The head of the ICRC's delegation in Addis Ababa, also responsible for the institution's activities in Eritrea, went to Asmara at regular intervals throughout the year in order to meet the authorities and discuss a number of issues, including the ICRC's support for the orthopaedic centre in Asmara.

At the end of October the Deputy Director of Operations, the Deputy Delegate General for Africa and a legal specialist from the ICRC's headquarters in Geneva, accompanied by the head of delegation in Addis Ababa, made the institution's first official visit to Eritrea since independence in order to discuss the question of the country's accession to the Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols, recognition of the "Red Cross Society of Eritrea", the use of the emblem and other matters.

## ETHIOPIA

In 1993 the transitional government in Addis Ababa pursued its policy of decentralization, giving more autonomy to the 14 regions. Having produced an initial draft of a new constitution, the Ethiopian authorities began a nationwide

campaign towards the end of the year to stimulate debate on it at a local level. Elections for the Constituent Assembly were tentatively planned for June 1994.

The authorities continued to face discontent among the opposition. This led to a number of armed clashes between the OLF\* and government troops, mainly in eastern Hararghe.

The ICRC concentrated its work during the year on visits to detainees and carried out some limited medical and material assistance programmes, mainly for people in detention. In addition, the delegation continued its activities in four orthopaedic workshops, and supported the National Society's dissemination, tracing and first-aid activities.

### Activities for detainees

The ICRC carried out visits to detainees in camps, prisons and police stations throughout the country. These people were held for alleged crimes committed under the previous government or for their connections with it, for taking part in the OLF insurgency, or for other reasons related to state security.

*Habeas corpus* procedure was adopted by the authorities at the start of the year and many detained members of the previous government who had appealed for it were subsequently released as of February. Others were released on bail. Not all were freed, however, and the ICRC continued to visit approximately 1,500 such people through to the end of the year.

Most of the 23,000 OLF supporters or fighters captured by government forces since June 1992, when the OLF withdrew from the transitional government, were released in March 1993. The ICRC and the Ethiopian Red Cross Society organized transport for 11,530 back to their places of origin. Delegates continued to visit the 1,600 who remained in detention. Over the year the government arrested a further 5,000 people for reasons related to the OLF insurgency. They too were visited by the ICRC. In all, the ICRC carried out 117 visits to 54 places of detention and visited 29,347 detainees; 8,434 of them were interviewed in private, including 4,502 who were registered for the first time.

### Tracing activities

The delegation mainly carried out tracing activities for people separated from their families by the conflict which ended in 1991. During visits to places of detention the ICRC also collected and distributed Red Cross messages sent between detainees and their families. In all, the ICRC's tracing office in Addis Ababa collected 997 Red Cross messages and distributed 571. It opened 311 tracing cases and resolved 93.

\*Oromo Liberation Front.

#### IN 1993 THE ICRC:

- visited over 29,000 people in detention;
- fitted 858 people with orthopaedic devices at three orthopaedic centres;
- provided over 190 tonnes of relief supplies to more than 46,000 beneficiaries.

**Medical activities**

ICRC medical staff took part in all visits to detainees. When needs were observed, they provided medical supplies, including basic medicines, intravenous fluids and dressing material. In November a treatment programme for detainees suffering from tuberculosis was initiated in Hurso detention camp and in December in the detention camp of Dedessa.

As part of its support to the Ethiopian Red Cross the ICRC provided the National Society's branches in most regions with medical requisites and a total of seven ambulances. The ICRC also gave medical supplies to hospitals and health centres.

The ICRC continued its activities for amputees in three orthopaedic centres. The three workshops in Debre Zeit, Addis Ababa and Mekele produced 1,016 prostheses and 497 orthoses, and fitted 601 and 257 patients respectively with such devices. They also produced 1,349 pairs of crutches and 70 wheelchairs, and carried out 88 major repairs to orthopaedic appliances. Furthermore, the ICRC provided the orthopaedic workshop in Harar with equipment and expertise to ensure that the war amputees from the Ogaden received adequate treatment.

During the year a training workshop was set up in Addis Ababa to teach orthopaedic technicians from other countries the use of polypropylene in the production of orthopaedic devices.

**Relief activities**

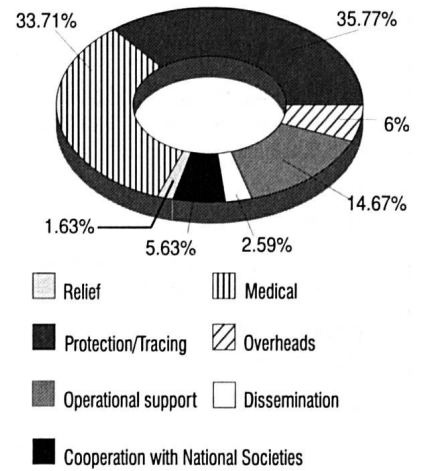
The delegation provided food and non-food assistance principally for people held in detention camps and prisons, but also for patients at orthopaedic workshops and other disadvantaged groups. At the end of the year about 10 tonnes of beans and oil were given to four institutions providing assistance to street children, orphans and hospital patients.

**Dissemination**

The ICRC delegation conducted joint dissemination activities with the Ethiopian Red Cross aimed at ensuring respect for the emblem and explaining the importance of humanitarian law, especially in regions potentially vulnerable to conflict. About 30,000 people, including government authorities, members of the military and police, medical personnel and the public were reached in the Ogaden, Omo and Afar regions by the end of the year. In addition the ICRC organized seminars for members of the National Society and actively supported its dissemination programme throughout the country.

At the end of the year the ICRC held a seminar for journalists in the capital. The two-day course covered the respective roles of the components of the Movement, the press and humanitarian law and other questions, and was attended by 34 journalists, including 20 from the Ministry of Information and 14 from the independent press.

Ethiopia including Eritrea  
Total expenditure in 1993:  
CHF 7,150,000





## RWANDA

A cease-fire had been proclaimed on 31 July 1992 by the Rwandese government and the RPF.\* By the end of January 1993 tension had risen again between the parties to the conflict as a result of dissatisfaction over some points specified in the Arusha Protocols. Political and inter-ethnic violence caused deaths and the displacement of civilians in a number of areas. On 8 February the RPF forces in the north of the country launched an all-out attack on government forces along the entire cease-fire line. In a matter of days they succeeded in advancing southwards to within 25 km of the capital, Kigali. The government forces agreed to a cease-fire on condition that the RPF retreat to its former positions.

In humanitarian terms, the consequences of this new outbreak of violence were considerable. Nearly 600,000 civilians fled from their homes, heading mainly southwards towards Kigali and bringing the total of those displaced by internal armed conflict to nearly 1 million.

On 7 March the Rwandese government and the RPF signed a new cease-fire in Dar-es-Salaam. A demilitarized zone was subsequently created between the new and previous front lines and peace talks were held in Arusha (Tanzania).

From 27-31 July the ICRC President went on an official mission to Rwanda and had talks with the government and RPF officials, the Rwandese Red Cross, the ambassadors of the main donor countries and those who had participated in the Arusha peace process. During these discussions the humanitarian work achieved by the ICRC in Rwanda was clearly acknowledged and appreciated by all. The ICRC's concern for the future of the civilian population was also shared by the various parties.

After a number of delays, on 4 August the President of the Republic of Rwanda and the President of the RPF finally signed the peace agreement which was to put an end to three years of internal armed conflict. This agreement and its protocols made provision for a broad-based transitional government, including

\* Rwanda Patriotic Front.

### IN 1993 THE ICRC:

- provided 900,000 displaced people with regular food supplies, totalling 115,800 tonnes;
- brought in medical supplies for hospitals and health posts;
- gave medical care to some 80,000 people via mobile clinics;
- collected 5,000 Red Cross messages and distributed 8,000;
- visited 441 detainees.

representatives of the RPF, and an international peace force; the two armies were to merge into one national army, following the demobilization of soldiers of the Rwandese armed forces and RPF combatants.

On 5 October the United Nations Security Council approved Resolution 872 authorizing the deployment of UN forces in Rwanda.\* This mission to monitor security, especially in the demilitarized zone, officially began in November in Kigali and in the north of the country.

By the end of the year, complete stability had still not been attained and various violent incidents again took place. As a result of the precarious situation in the country, the ICRC played a crucial role for the civilian population in 1993, often under difficult conditions. Relief activities, especially large-scale food distributions, were a priority, but medical, tracing and detention activities were also very important.

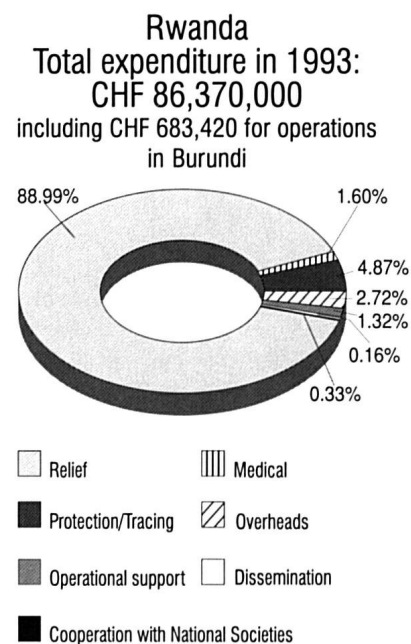
Through their regular presence in places affected by the conflict between the government and the RPF and by ethnic violence the ICRC delegates were able to collect any allegations of abuse and transmit them to the authorities concerned, urging all parties to respect international humanitarian law.

### Assistance for the civilian population

After fighting resumed in February, the 350,000 displaced people already receiving aid were joined by another 600,000 displaced civilians in dire need of assistance. The ICRC, in cooperation with the Rwandese Red Cross, promptly expanded its food aid programme considerably and set up five new logistical bases in the regions of Kigali, Ruhengeri and Byumba. A total of some 300 Rwandese Red Cross staff and 25 ICRC expatriates were responsible for coordinating the programme. At the same time the Belgian Red Cross, which had been present in Rwanda for a number of years, increased its operations and personnel to coordinate non-food relief operations in conjunction with the ICRC.

By 24 February the ICRC had established new ways of ensuring that it had enough food to distribute. In addition to food stocks provided by the World Food Programme (WFP) the ICRC organized its own food pipeline, using different means of transport and routes: air transport in conjunction with the WFP from Entebbe (Uganda), transport from Kampala (Uganda) along Lake Victoria by ferry-boat and on to Kigali via Tanzania and direct cross-border/cross-line operations by road from Uganda into Rwanda. The ICRC was thus able to provide over 900,000 displaced people, mostly living in provisional camps, with food aid on a regular basis. By April, some 2,800 tonnes of food were being distributed weekly despite certain distribution problems, while the Belgian Red Cross, under an *ad hoc* agreement with the ICRC, provided 180,000 beneficiaries with non-food relief items such as cooking utensils.

\* UNAMIR: United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda.



One major stumbling block was the lack of accurate lists of beneficiaries, which made it very difficult to keep a check on the situation. The absence of local authorities at distribution sites also created precarious conditions for Rwandese Red Cross employees. These points were repeatedly brought up with the authorities in the capital.

In March the ICRC sent a memorandum to the President of the Republic and the President of the RPF expressing its concern for the civilian population, warning them of the risk of famine and severe health problems if the displaced people could not soon return to their homes. In June an agreement was finally reached between the two parties to the conflict regarding the safe return of these people to their homes in the north, in the demilitarized zone.

In July ICRC and Rwandese Red Cross representatives took part in an emergency committee set up to examine the humanitarian situation in the country. It was decided that the ICRC, WFP and the National Society would continue their relief work and the local authorities would be responsible for supervision and security during distributions. Despite these measures three major incidents occurred: from 12-18 August the ICRC was obliged to suspend food aid to certain regions as a result of road blocks, while on 26 September, during riots in Muhura, 26 Rwandese Red Cross volunteers were taken hostage for two days and therefore distributions were again temporarily suspended. The most serious incident occurred on 27 November, when a truck belonging to the Belgian Red Cross was blown up in the demilitarized zone, killing one Rwandese Red Cross employee and seriously injuring three others.

As malnutrition among the displaced population continued to cause concern, an agronomist visited Rwanda in August to study ways of overcoming it and to initiate agricultural rehabilitation programmes, and a Rwanda-based nutritionist made regular surveys in the camps. A special committee coordinated by the ICRC was set up with various non-governmental organizations in order to evaluate this problem. The final report with their recommendations was presented in September. As a result, food rations distributed were readjusted and the nutritional status in the camps improved considerably. However, some major food shortages arose at the end of October when the non-governmental organizations previously working there turned their attention to the sudden influx of Burundi refugees in the south of Rwanda.

By the end of September some 600,000 displaced people had returned to their homes in the demilitarized zone. Agricultural rehabilitation programmes were implemented to enable them to attain self-sufficiency, but the ICRC had to continue providing food relief at least until the first harvest in December.

The remaining 350,000 displacees from the RPF zone were unable to return to their homes in 1993. At the end of the year they were still in camps in government-controlled regions and were expected to remain dependent on international humanitarian aid for the first few months of 1994.



Between May and July the ICRC delegation in Kampala carried out an assistance programme, coordinated by the delegation in Kigali, for 10,500 civilians in the RPF zone in northern Rwanda, providing them with food, soap, jerrycans, cooking pots and blankets.

## Medical and sanitation activities

To meet the growing needs created by the ongoing conflict the ICRC stepped up its emergency medical assistance. During the violent demonstrations in Kigali in January two ICRC medical teams helped the teams of the Rwandese and Belgian National Societies. The wounded were evacuated to local hospitals and the main hospital in the capital, and emergency medical equipment and drugs were distributed to local health posts.

Following the RPF attack in February ICRC teams evacuated the sick and wounded from combat zones to medical facilities in safer areas. A surgical team was brought in to support the main hospital in Kigali. A total of 227 operations were performed during their seven-week mission.

The ICRC carried out several medical surveys in the conflict zones, including the RPF zone. In March an ICRC doctor and sanitation engineer visited the overcrowded camps of Nyacyonga, Rusine and Kiziguro, where they found a serious dysentery epidemic. The ICRC therefore set up an emergency water supply system, bringing 350,000 litres of water a day to the region from Kigali, while the various non-governmental organizations present worked to instal more permanent facilities.

Under an agreement with the ICRC, the Belgian Red Cross distributed medical and surgical equipment to Rwandese hospitals caring for the displaced.

At the end of May two ICRC/Belgian Red Cross mobile clinics were introduced to provide basic health care for the displaced civilian population in the demilitarized zone and to evacuate serious casualties to local hospitals. By 19 September, after some 80,000 patients had been cared for, this programme was phased out as local medical facilities resumed work (with the help of other humanitarian organizations). The ICRC was then able to concentrate on supplying the 17 health posts in the demilitarized zone.

Although the number of emergency cases fell sharply after the cease-fire, landmine injuries continued. In October the delegation in Kigali sent a memorandum about this problem to government authorities, the RPF, embassies, non-governmental organizations, churches and the press.

In the RPF-controlled part of the country the ICRC carried out two medical surveys from its delegation in Uganda, after which 1,300 kg of medical supplies were distributed for the treatment of war casualties and the civilian population.

## Tracing activities

In 1993 many calls were made on the ICRC tracing service to restore contact between Rwandese refugees in Uganda and their families back home, and between displaced people in camps in the government zone and the RPF zone. An ICRC team visited Rwandese refugees in Kisoro (Uganda) and ICRC missions were carried out regularly to the RPF zone, registering 17 detainees held by the RPF and taking messages for their relatives living in the part of Rwanda controlled by the government. In all, some 5,000 messages were collected and 8,000 distributed. In November, after the *coup* in Burundi, a delegate carried out a survey in the south of Rwanda to ascertain the tracing needs of the new Burundi refugees. The ICRC subsequently trained 13 new tracing officers of the Rwandese Red Cross to carry out tracing activities in the refugee camps.

## Activities for detainees

The ICRC had access to detainees held by the government and by the RPF from the start of the hostilities and in June the ICRC obtained the formal authorization of the Ministry of Defence to visit military camps. In August three RPF and 12 government detainees were released under the auspices of the ICRC. In all, delegates visited 441 detainees.

## Dissemination

Over the year a number of dissemination sessions on the ICRC and on international humanitarian law were organized for the armed forces, the National Society, non-governmental organizations, schoolchildren, journalists and all political parties, with a view to spreading awareness of the role of the ICRC and thus facilitating its work in the country.

In July, at a meeting attended by 15 RPF representatives, the head of delegation explained the ICRC's mandate, the basic rules of international humanitarian law and their practical application to the conflict in Rwanda.

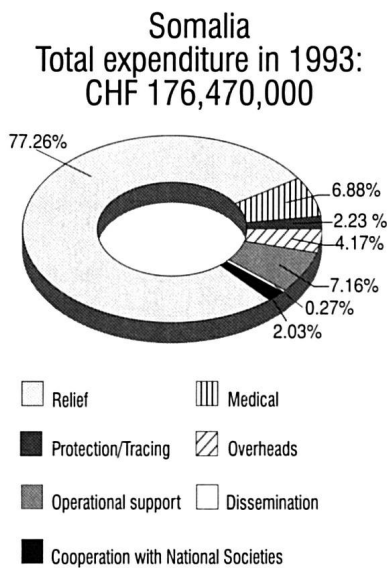
In October, representatives of different social groups at a panel meeting organized by the ICRC sought to reach agreement on a universally applicable set of humanitarian rules that would effectively enhance respect for human life and human dignity.

## SOMALIA

The Somalia tragedy remained unresolved at the end of 1993, yet the extreme suffering that the Somali people had known in 1992 was by and large relieved.

As of December 1992 UNITAF\* soldiers moved in in force, fighting ceased in many areas, and although instability continued throughout the year, images of

\* United Task Force.



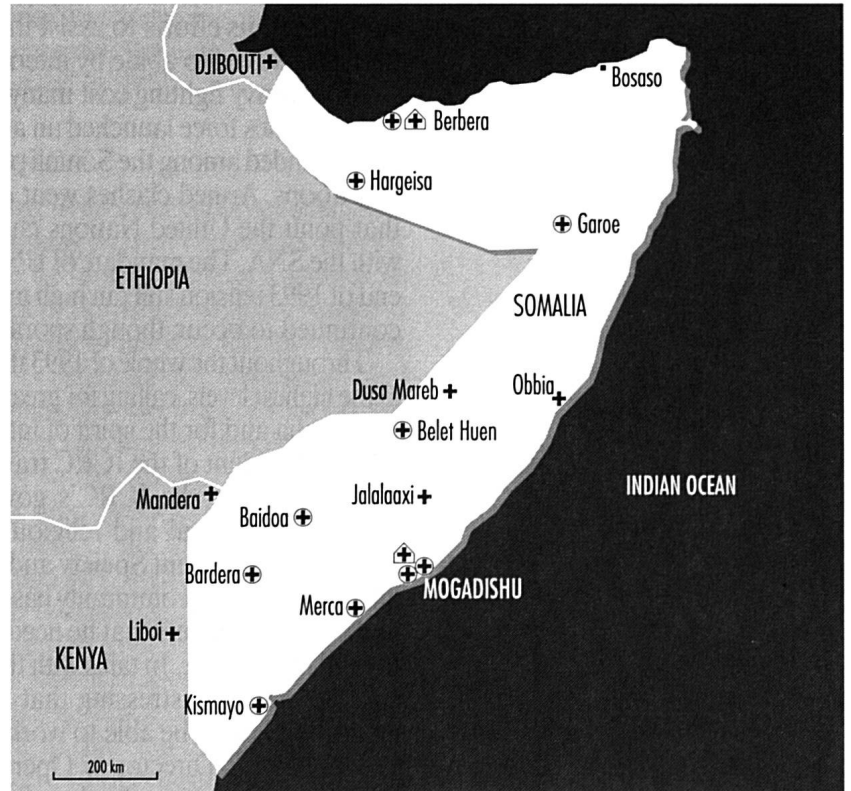
starving people became less and less common in the media. This was partly due to the fact that hundreds of thousands of the weakest had died, but also to the ability of international organizations, like the ICRC, to bring in relief supplies in quantities commensurate with the needs.

On the political front, hopes for peace in Somalia were mixed. Addis Ababa played host to representatives of 15 Somali factions who met there under the auspices of the United Nations in January. Having signed an immediate cease-fire, the faction representatives returned to Addis Ababa for the first session of a national reconciliation conference on 27 March, which resulted in the signing of an agreement allowing for the creation of a national transitional council composed of 74 members from the country's different regions and political parties. Nevertheless, violence continued to afflict various parts of the country.

At the 27 March conference the 15 signatories undertook to abide by the cease-fire signed in January, and to surrender all of their arms and ammunition to UNOSOM II.\*\* This new UN force, which took over from UNITAF on 4 May, was mandated by the UN Security Council in Resolution 814 to carry out humanitarian relief work in collaboration with UN agencies and non-governmental organizations. This was to be one of the UN's largest operations worldwide with some 30,000 men.

In Mogadishu, the military situation took a turn for the worse on 6 June, when 24 Pakistani soldiers under UN command were killed. The UN Security Council adopted a resolution condemning the attack and calling for the perpetrators to be brought to justice. The situation rapidly deteriorated in the southern part of the city, and armed conflict directly involving the UNOSOM II forces ensued, causing heavy structural damage and leaving many people dead or injured.

The subsequent precarious conditions resulted in the temporary withdrawal of many international organizations, bringing much of the humanitarian assistance temporarily to a halt. The ICRC responded to the new situation by



⊕ ICRC sub-delegation    + ICRC office    ⊕ ICRC/SRCS hospital

ICRC / AR 12.93

#### IN 1993 THE ICRC:

- distributed 98,462 tonnes of food and non-food relief supplies (including seed and tools) to around 2.5 million beneficiaries;
- handled 253,476 Red Cross messages and traced 3,142 missing family members;
- admitted 2,861 patients to its surgical hospital in North Mogadishu, where 5,112 operations were performed;
- provided medical supplies in health facilities throughout the country;
- vaccinated 5,000,000 camels, goats, sheep and cows against dangerous diseases.

\*\* United Nations Operations in Somalia.

stepping up its efforts to assist those wounded in the fighting, and called on all parties involved to abide by international humanitarian law.

More heavy fighting cost many lives in Mogadishu in October, when a special United States force launched an attack on the SNA\* leadership. Many were killed and wounded among the Somali population, and there were also casualties among UN troops. Armed clashes went on until a truce was declared on 4 October. At that point the United Nations changed its policy and decided to reinstate talks with the SNA. The mandate of UNOSOM II was extended to 31 May 1994. At the end of 1993 tension still ran high in many parts of the country and violent outbursts continued to occur, though sporadically and on a much smaller scale.

Throughout the whole of 1993 the ICRC regularly approached the various parties at the highest levels, calling for greater respect to be shown for the civilian population in Somalia and for the spirit of international humanitarian law to be applied.

The President of the ICRC travelled to Somalia in January with a member of the Committee, the ICRC's governing board, where they met the principal military, traditional and religious leaders of Somalia, senior members of the Somali Red Crescent Society and a number of representatives of the diplomatic and humanitarian community based in Somalia. The ICRC President emphasized to the Somali leaders that he needed their full support if the ICRC was to be able to fulfil its mandate. In talks with the UN representatives he underlined the ICRC's specific mandate, stressing that for the sake of the victims of the violence the institution had to be able to work independently.

The ICRC's Director of Operations also drew attention to the need for the ICRC to work independently in Somalia in discussions with several high-ranking members of the UN Secretariat in New York in March.

As the year progressed, mass starvation was gradually overcome and many organizations were able to take action nationwide to improve health and nutrition. Towards mid-year, when the emergency period was over, medical programmes throughout the country entered a phase of rehabilitation and development.

The ICRC therefore began to revert to activities stemming directly from its specific mandate, paring back considerably its large-scale emergency food and medical aid operations and finally bringing them to an end in August. The sub-delegations in Bardera, Baidoa, Merca and Kismayo were thus closed and the Garoe and Belet Huen sub-delegations were handed over to the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. Nonetheless, the situation in these places was kept under close observation until the end of the year through regular visits by field delegates.

The ICRC's expatriate staff requirements had been cut dramatically by the end of August. Only the delegation in Mogadishu was left open and delegates concentrated on tracing activities throughout the country, in cooperation with

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\* Somali National Alliance.

the Somali Red Crescent Society. Another priority was to continue the veterinary and agricultural programmes, intended to ensure that the nutritional situation did not again degenerate into the horror witnessed in 1992.

### Security concerns

The ICRC's field operations met with varying degrees of success throughout the first half of the year, owing to constantly changing security conditions. Already frequently compromised in the previous year by violence directed against its employees, the continuation of ICRC activities in Somalia was again placed in question early in 1993 when an ICRC administrator in Bardera was shot dead in his office during a hold-up. After suspending its operation for several days and sending its Delegate General for Africa for emergency meetings in Nairobi, the ICRC decided that the acute humanitarian needs outweighed the danger of the operation. It therefore made a solemn appeal to the political and traditional Somali leaders to guarantee the safety of its employees, and resumed relief distributions shortly afterwards. In February three of the ICRC's Somali staff were killed in a landmine explosion near Las Anod and three others were injured. On 22 March, after an armed robbery at the sub-delegation in North Mogadishu, the ICRC temporarily evacuated all its expatriate staff from that office to Nairobi. At the beginning of April the sub-delegation in Kismayo also had to be vacated, owing to an outbreak of violence in the town during which the ICRC's premises were hit by hand-grenades. Civilians belonging to one clan had taken refuge in the ICRC's grounds and were being attacked by an opposing clan. They were subsequently evacuated by Belgian troops under UN command to a location north-west of the town. Thus throughout the year ICRC expatriates working in Somalia were regularly faced with personal threats and demands for money, while all around incidents of looting and shooting remained a major problem, slowing down distributions considerably.

### Activities for detainees

At the beginning of February 381 detainees held by the United Somali Congress in Mogadishu were released and with their consent the ICRC organized their transfer to their places of origin.

After fighting broke out between UNOSOM II forces and Somali militiamen, the ICRC sought to obtain access to detainees held by UNOSOM II. On 24 June the head of delegation met the UN Secretary General's Special Representative in Somalia and made an offer of services in this respect. Visits began on 28 June and a first report was submitted to the commander of the UNOSOM II forces on 15 September. Delegates provided limited assistance where needs were otherwise not covered. A second report was submitted to the UNOSOM II authorities on 6 December. Two UNOSOM II soldiers captured

by the SNA were also visited by delegates and the ICRC organized their transfer to UNOSOM II headquarters when they were released on 14 October. In all, 646 detainees of concern to the ICRC were visited, 206 of them held by UNOSOM II.

### Tracing activities

The ICRC's tracing service was the Somali population's only regular and reliable means of communication, both within the country and abroad. The ICRC forwarded 253,476 Red Cross messages in 1993, helping families to keep in touch, and handled 4,123 tracing requests from people looking for a lost relative. In the same period 3,142 people were successfully traced.

During the year the ICRC began handing over responsibility for the tracing service to the Somali Red Crescent. Many of the tracing sub-offices were closed in the course of 1993, bringing the network at the end of December to 14 offices run by the National Society in Somalia, plus 10 others in Kenya and Djibouti.

With the end of the armed conflict and the onset of a good rainy season in many parts of the country, a considerable proportion of the refugee population in Kenya began moving back to Somalia. Tracing needs in this context thus gradually diminished as of mid-year.

### Medical activities

In response to the medical needs engendered by the fighting, the ICRC assisted vulnerable groups, providing treatment for war-wounded and other surgical emergencies as well as basic health care.

The ICRC's medical programme in Somalia was re-evaluated in April, and it was decided that activities in the field would be substantially reduced in view of the arrival of other organizations starting up health programmes and the opening of public dispensaries in Mogadishu and in Somaliland.

At the beginning of April the ICRC was still providing support for the hospitals in Boroma, Los Anod, Erigavo, Garoe, Merca and Lafole, as well as some 15 out-patient clinics. By the end of the month all support activities had been handed over to other organizations or phased out.

In Bardera, where malnutrition was most severe, the therapeutic feeding centre opened in December 1992 continued to provide special care for 370 patients until the end of March. The ICRC was then able to close the centre owing to a marked improvement in the nutritional condition of the population.

In the first half of 1993 basic health-care programmes were carried out throughout the country, assisting around 155 dispensaries and health posts. Fourteen mobile medical teams were sent out to remote villages without other health services, in order to provide treatment for the most common diseases.

Following the outbreak of fighting in South Mogadishu, which started on 6 June with the killing of 24 Pakistani soldiers under UN command, the ICRC

provided the hospitals in the south of the city with emergency medical supplies to treat the wounded. Medical stocks for treating 1,000 patients were brought in to Mogadishu and ten Somali Red Crescent first-aid posts were subsequently set up in various parts of the city with medical supplies provided by the ICRC. In coordination with the National Society, the ICRC monitored the situation in hospitals in the southern part of the city and regularly supplied medicines and equipment to treat war casualties. Medical material was also given to first-aid posts run by the local community.

At the beginning of the year two flying surgical teams provided support for local medical facilities, visiting hospitals in Doble, Garoe, Bardera and Merca. As the year progressed one team sufficed to cover the needs. The single team subsequently worked in hospitals in Garoe and Merca, and visited Las Anod, Boroma and Hargeisa hospitals, where donations of surgical items and equipment were handed over. The need for a flying surgical team diminished after a few months, as there was a big reduction in the number of casualties in most parts of the country and international organizations arrived and started setting up hospital rehabilitation programmes. As of the end of May the team therefore stopped operating as a flying unit and started work in Keysaney.

Keysaney hospital carried on its work in North Mogadishu, supervised by an ICRC surgical team. Some 2,861 patients were admitted to Keysaney during the year, where a total of 5,112 operations were performed.

The ICRC/Somali Red Crescent surgical hospital in Berbera had an average of 55 admissions per month. The ICRC terminated its support for it in August, when responsibility for the hospital was given to the Somaliland authorities.

## Relief activities

After distributing more than 54,000 tonnes of food in the first three months of 1993, and as other organizations were meanwhile able to bring food to those in need, the ICRC started reducing its relief work as planned, phasing out the community kitchen network and gradually stopping dry food rations (i.e. food for preparation by the beneficiaries themselves) altogether by August. At that time it was noted that the nutritional status of the population had greatly improved, thanks to the food distributions carried out by the ICRC and other organizations, but also thanks to plentiful rains and the ICRC/Somali Red Crescent agricultural and veterinary programmes.

All of the ICRC's community kitchens in Baidoa and Belet Huen were closed before the end of April, as were most kitchens in the Merca area. By mid-May only a hundred kitchens were left in North Mogadishu and 15 in the south of the city. In the meantime, dry rations were still being distributed to particularly vulnerable groups in Kismayo, Belet Huen and Merca. In June the ICRC's food distributions in Somalia were completed and the use of over 20 ships and barges ended.

Also in June the ICRC carried out a distribution of blankets, clothing, soap, cooking pots and plastic sheeting for 250,000 people seriously affected by the conflict.

After UNITAF forces moved in at the end of 1992 and security improved, the extensive logistics system set up by the ICRC to bring in relief supplies by land, sea and air was steadily scaled down. Road convoys within Somalia were resumed, enabling ICRC relief flights to be drastically reduced, and cross-border operations were no longer necessary as from March (1,510 tonnes were dispatched from Mombasa and Nairobi in the first three months of the year). The ICRC was also able to bring in regular shipments to Mogadishu.

In all, the ICRC's aircraft flew in some 10,000 tonnes of supplies to Somalia during the relief effort, and more than 70,000 tonnes of food, medical supplies and non-food relief items were transported by sea on 33 voyages from Mombasa to different destinations along the Somali coast.

### Agricultural programme

During 1993 the ICRC continued its assistance to more than 200,000 families in rural areas to consolidate the economic activities that began to emerge in early 1993. It distributed 3,300 tonnes of seed, 234,000 hoes, 400,000 rolls of fishing twine and 6 tonnes of fish-hooks.

With the exception of some places affected either by floods (Lower Shabelle and Juba regions) or by drought (Gedo region), the first cropping season (*Gu*) yielded an average harvest.

For the second cropping season, the *Deyr*, which lasts from September to February, the ICRC focused its assistance on 50,000 farming families who had only recently returned to their land, or who had been affected by floods, drought or banditry.

Throughout its 1993 seed and tool distributions, the ICRC was in constant contact with other non-governmental organizations and UN agencies involved in similar work in order to coordinate agricultural rehabilitation and development activities.

Special attention was given to the most vulnerable ethnic groups such as the Bantu and the Bajuni, who depend on fishing for their survival. Sea and river fishing tackle for 40,000 families was distributed to these communities, who live near rivers and in coastal areas. At the end of 1993 the ICRC started distributing fishing tackle for a further 55,000 families.

Unless the situation changes greatly, the 1993 *Deyr* seed and tool distribution will be the last of its kind in Somalia.

### Veterinary programme

The ICRC veterinary programme, in operation since 1992, was designed to maintain the Somali livestock owners' self-sufficiency.



Between September 1992 and December 1993, almost 10 million sheep, goats, cows and camels were checked over by 23 ICRC veterinary teams, and nearly 5 million animals were treated for endo-ecto parasites and trypanosomiasis and/or vaccinated against rinderpest and other diseases.

The main objective of the emergency programme was attained by the end of 1993. Livestock owners, traders and veterinary surgeons confirmed that the programme had beneficial results on the health of the animals. These results contributed to a rise in export livestock value, leading to an improved economic situation for the herdsmen.

During the year the ICRC was at the forefront of a nationwide programme to establish private veterinary practices and a commercial drug distribution network throughout Somalia. Renowned pharmaceutical companies were persuaded to re-establish the drug distribution network throughout Somalia with Somali vets and businessmen. The ICRC, in collaboration with non-governmental organizations willing to take over its programme, provided the private practices with start-up equipment, drugs and vaccines. Plans were made for a two-year training programme for Somali veterinary assistants.

## Dissemination

Numerous information and training sessions were held throughout the year to promote understanding of international humanitarian law and the fundamental principles of the Movement. Emphasis was placed on special courses for Somali Red Crescent and ICRC staff to make each participant a capable relay for dissemination messages. Other sessions were held with clan elders and local authorities, as well as United Nations forces, with the aim of improving general understanding of the ICRC's work and thus making it easier to carry out.

During the year a wide variety of dissemination materials was produced in order to ensure that wherever the ICRC or the National Society was active, the special meaning of Red Cross/Red Crescent work was passed on. The permanent dissemination potential of posters was particularly exploited in this respect and a series of large-format and smaller designs created by Somali artists was printed, with various messages for dissemination purposes. As many as 16,000 posters were distributed through 25 ICRC sub-delegations and National Society branches, while the agro-vet teams distributed the posters in rural areas. This same distribution network was used for 20,000 pocket calendars produced along the same lines as the posters. In North and South Mogadishu 40 sites were used for large wall paintings by local artists containing simple messages on the ICRC and Somali Red Crescent.

Other items made for dissemination purposes included 20,000 leaflets with messages and photographs, 20,000 code of conduct booklets intended for all armed men, 5,000 first aid triangles with dissemination messages printed on them, 20,000 checkpoint leaflets for foreign troops, 3,000 T-shirts for the National



Society, and 2,000 educational posters and 20,000 colouring books for primary schools.

In addition, basic messages on the Red Cross/Red Crescent were adapted to local culture and were broadcast regularly on local radio stations in North and South Mogadishu. Weekly information programmes were also transmitted and included interviews with ICRC staff.

### SUDAN

After ten years of internal armed conflict in southern Sudan, fighting continued in 1993 between government forces and the Garang faction of the SPLA\*, as well as between the different opposition factions (SPLA-Garang and SPLA-Riek).

As a result of this warfare the country continued to face immeasurable problems. Irreparable damage was caused to the nation's infrastructure and in terms of human suffering the situation was catastrophic. Hundreds of thousands of displaced people were left totally destitute, without land or livestock.

On 21 March 1993, after almost a year of absence from southern Sudan, the ICRC signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Sudanese government, stipulating that the ICRC could have access to all victims of the conflict. On 22 March the ICRC submitted an initial plan of action which was approved by all the parties to the conflict on 20 April. The ICRC was finally able to carry out a series of surveys in May, after which a consolidated plan of action was presented to the Sudanese government and the SPLA factions.

The ICRC obtained no response to its flight plan for June from the Sudanese authorities. Only in July was the institution able to start its activities. At the beginning of September the ICRC also received authorization to reopen its sub-delegation in the provincial capital Juba and recommence its humanitarian activities there.

As of July operations out of Khartoum and Kenya were grouped under the sole responsibility of the ICRC delegation in Khartoum.

- IN 1993 THE ICRC:**
- provided 50,000 victims of the conflict with a total of 620 tonnes of food aid;
  - distributed 170 tonnes of seed and agricultural equipment to 400,000 people to help them regain their self-sufficiency;
  - provided 350,000 conflict victims with a total of 10 tonnes of fishing tackle and 30 tonnes (288,000 sq.m) of mosquito netting;
  - distributed 20 tonnes of medical supplies in 30 different health-care facilities;
  - fitted 897 people with orthopaedic devices.

\* Sudanese People's Liberation Army.

## Assistance for the civilian population

The first step taken by the delegation was to carry out a number of surveys to identify needs in zones controlled by the government, the SPLA-Garang faction and the SPLA-Riek faction. From 10-28 May delegates visited Juba, Kongor, Ayod, Torit, Kajo Kaji, Nasir, Ulang, Kapoeta, Waat, Lafon, Malakal and Bor. Nutritional conditions varied substantially: in certain regions they were found to be satisfactory, whereas in others the population was in dire need of food. There was an acute lack of medical care and equipment in all areas and often no possibility for the people to break away from dependence on outside aid.

After completing these surveys the ICRC drew up a plan of action. As the UN relief operation in southern Sudan, "Operation Lifeline Sudan", remained the main purveyor of food aid in southern Sudan, the ICRC focused its relief activities on providing the affected population with a means of regaining their self-sufficiency. Seed, agricultural tools and fishing tackle were to be supplied to those hardest hit by the conflict. These programmes were unfortunately at a standstill in June for want of the necessary flight authorizations.

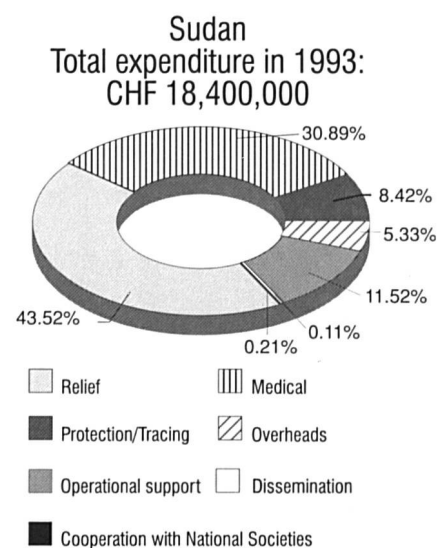
Activities were resumed in July and further surveys were carried out in other areas. The first consignments of assistance consisted of mosquito nets, plastic sheeting, blankets, fishing tackle, medical supplies and medicines for distribution. As of 13 August the authorization to use an additional DC3 allowed for the transport and distribution of seed (sorghum, beans and vegetables) and agricultural tools.

During the second half of August a nutritionist and agronomist carried out a mission to Sudan to evaluate the emergency rehabilitation programmes and determine how they should progress.

During the second sowing season the agricultural programme was held up by a number of problems, such as the flooding of airstrips and delays in receiving the necessary flight authorizations. To compensate, and in view of the prolonged rainy season, the ICRC continued its seed distribution programme for a longer period than planned. With the end of the rainy season the ICRC's programme of seed and tool distributions was concluded.

Following a survey in Malakal at the end of September, a special emergency relief programme was set up to assist the displaced people there, who were found to be living in particularly precarious conditions. The programme included the establishment of two therapeutic feeding centres.

From October the ICRC concentrated its efforts on regions most affected by violence and in greatest need of emergency assistance. Distributions of fishing tackle and mosquito netting, which had been started in July, continued on through to the end of the year. The fishing tackle in particular had a very positive impact on the lives of civilians affected by the conflict, who thus had access to a source of protein and could enjoy a more balanced diet.



In all, some 170 tonnes of seed and agricultural equipment were distributed to 400,000 people in 1993, while 10 tonnes of fishing tackle and 30 tonnes (288,000 sq.m) of mosquito netting were distributed to some 350,000 people.

Over the year the ICRC established contacts with non-governmental organizations and United Nations agencies in southern Sudan to coordinate agricultural activities in the region and avoid duplication of relief operations.

## Medical and sanitation activities

Although other ICRC operations did not resume until later in the year, medical assistance for the victims of the ongoing conflict never ceased.

The ICRC's war-surgery hospital at Lokichokio in north-western Kenya received casualties from the conflict in southern Sudan all year round. The number of in-patients reached an all-time high of 320 in August. As of July direct ICRC flights from southern Sudan brought the wounded to Lokichokio. Before that, the wounded were flown out by other agencies operating in southern Sudan or by ICRC flights from northern Uganda, where a number of war casualties had sought refuge. Other casualties arrived at Lokichokio by their own means.

From 6 September on, the ICRC was authorized to re-establish its permanent presence in Juba and was able to go ahead with the first stage of its programme there, namely rehabilitation of the surgical wing of the provincial hospital. The ICRC also provided it with medical supplies and equipment, the ultimate aim being to transform it into a referral hospital.

In addition to the above activities the ICRC provided medical supplies to functioning health-care facilities in 47 different places throughout southern Sudan, in government and SPLA-controlled areas.

In communities not covered by other organizations because of fighting there or the proximity of such places to the front lines, the ICRC developed a programme to restore disrupted medical facilities. This programme was started in November in the Bor/Kongor area and in three locations in Bahr El Ghazal region—Mayen Abun, Malwal Kon and Nyamlell. Some 20 tonnes of medical supplies were distributed in 30 different health-care facilities.

Over the year the ICRC continued its activities for amputees at the orthopaedic centre in Khartoum and in Lokichokio. The workshop in Kassala was closed in May. In all, the ICRC's technicians produced 1,052 prostheses and 180 orthoses, and fitted 739 and 158 patients respectively with such devices. They also produced 863 pairs of crutches and carried out 204 major repairs to orthopaedic appliances.

## Tracing activities

In 1993 the ICRC's tracing service gave priority to the restoration of family ties, as countless families were separated as a result of the conflict. By the end of

the year 21 tracing sub-offices had been set up in Sudan, both in government and SPLA-controlled areas. Tracing work was carried out for displaced people in Sudan itself as well as for Sudanese refugees in camps in Uganda, northern Zaire, the Central African Republic, Kenya and Ethiopia, and numerous Red Cross messages were exchanged. A training programme was also set up for branches of the Sudanese Red Crescent in areas with no ICRC presence.

### Activities for detainees

For the first time since April 1992 the ICRC was able to visit detainees in Sudan. On 4 July the ICRC saw three officers of the Sudanese army who were detained by the SPLA-Garang faction. They were later released. Having received authorization to visit all detainees held by the SPLA-Garang faction, from 16 to 18 October an ICRC team from Lokichokio visited 182 detainees (mainly members of the Sudanese armed forces). Blankets, mosquito nets, food and clothing were distributed during a second visit which took place in early November. Detainees were able to write Red Cross messages to their families and delegates distributed messages sent from their families.

### Cooperation with the National Society

The ICRC continued its support to the four branches of the Sudanese Red Crescent in southern Sudan by contributing to their running costs, organizing a number of training and dissemination courses and developing assistance and rehabilitation programmes. It also provided the National Society's Juba branch with food for distribution to vulnerable groups, including hospital patients, orphans, the sick and the disabled.

In addition, the Sudanese Red Crescent in Khartoum received ICRC support, including cooking pots, blankets and food for distribution to displaced people at the reception centre in Omdurman. All year round the ICRC and the National Society cooperated to provide over 30,000 displaced people living in a camp on the outskirts of Khartoum with a daily supply of drinking water.

The joint Sudanese Red Crescent/ICRC programme to spread knowledge of international humanitarian law and Red Cross principles was continued throughout the year in the parts of the country where there was no fighting.

## UGANDA

The political landscape of Uganda changed in 1993. Rebel groups such as the UPA\* in eastern Uganda and the NALU\*\* in the Ruwenzori mountains in the west apparently all but disappeared after the deaths of their leaders in June and August respectively. In November a surrender package was negotiated

\* Uganda People's Army.

\*\* National Army for the Liberation of Uganda.

between high-ranking government officials and rebel commanders of the LRA\* (formerly the "Holy Spirit" movement) operating in the Gulu and Kitgum districts of northern Uganda; an unofficial cease-fire followed.

While the nation's rebel groups were laying down their arms, some 25,000 of the government's 45,000 NRA\*\* forces were demobilized. A general rise in banditry – a common problem in post-conflict periods – ensued.

In the meantime, the Uganda Constitutional Commission presented the draft constitution to President Museveni and elections for the future Constituent Assembly were rescheduled for 28 March 1994.

On balance the situation in Uganda continued to stabilize considerably in 1993. The release of security detainees, moves towards greater democracy and a relatively buoyant economy supported by Western donor governments were positive achievements, and diverted attention from the problems encountered with the demobilization of tens of thousands of combatants.

ICRC detention-related activities steadily diminished and it became possible to hand over many programmes to the National Society (see below). The ICRC therefore reduced its permanent presence in Uganda at the end of the year to only two expatriates based at the Kampala office, which henceforth came under the regional delegation in Nairobi.

### Activities for detainees

New efforts to speed up judicial procedure in the country with a view to releasing people with no official charges against them meant that the number of people held for security reasons continued to drop in 1993. A presidential pardon initiated by the Commissioner of Prisons led to the release of 785 inmates. Thus only 99 detainees within the ICRC's mandate were still behind bars at the end of 1993, as compared with 2,232 in July 1992. During the year ICRC delegates carried out 38 visits in 18 places of detention, including state prisons, police stations and military barracks.

The ICRC delegation in Kampala pursued its efforts to obtain access to NRA soldiers detained in military barracks. The issue of NRA soldiers in custody but not yet sentenced, to whom the ICRC had no access without witnesses, was discussed with the NRA commander in June. Twenty-two NRA officers were later released from Makindye and Lubiri military barracks after treason charges against them were withdrawn.

As in previous years, and in keeping with customary ICRC procedure, ICRC medical staff accompanied delegates on visits to places of detention, in order to check the health of detainees. Water and sanitation programmes continued, with improvements made by the ICRC and the Uganda Prison Services in three state

\* Lord Resistance Army.

\*\* National Resistance Army.

prisons. The ICRC also provided the Ugandan Prison Services with some basic items including soap, cleaning products, blankets and leisure equipment such as footballs, in particular for Gulu and Lira prisons.

### Tracing activities

Tracing work at the Kampala delegation centred on the exchange of Red Cross messages between Sudanese refugees in the north of Zaire and Rwandese refugees in southern Uganda and their families back home.

At the end of June all tracing activities, except missions into Zaire and confidential detention files, were handed over to the newly created tracing office of the Uganda Red Cross Society. In 1993, 187 people were successfully traced and 29,202 Red Cross messages were handled.

### Medical activities

After heavy fighting recurred in the border area of Western Equatoria (southern Sudan) in February, a growing number of war casualties arrived in Uganda. The delegation in Kampala helped to transfer the seriously wounded to the ICRC's surgical hospital at Lokichokio in north-western Kenya: over the year 84 war casualties were taken from Arua in north-western Uganda to Lokichokio. Some 1,700 kg of medicine and other medical supplies were also flown in by the ICRC from Lokichokio to Arua to provide first aid for the wounded.

### Relief activities

In the first half of the year the delegation organized the necessary logistics to ensure regular supplies for the ICRC's emergency food programme in Rwanda. Some 18,000 tonnes of food were purchased in Uganda and sent on to Rwanda in 1993.

Small-scale non-food relief distributions were also carried out in northern Uganda for victims of the renewed fighting in Sudan.

### Dissemination

The ICRC's mobile dissemination units toured much of Uganda, reaching over 30,000 people with information about international humanitarian law and basic humanitarian principles. Target audiences included Uganda Red Cross staff and volunteers, local authorities, teachers, students, police, local defence units, medical personnel and prison staff.

The ICRC delegation in Kampala also held dissemination sessions for the officers of the Ugandan contingent placed at the UN's disposal and for the UNOMUR\* forces based on the Uganda/Rwanda border.

\* United Nations Observer Mission Uganda-Rwanda.

In 1993 the government of Uganda for the first time organized human rights workshops for senior officials of the army, police and prison services. The ICRC delegation was invited to give an introductory course on international humanitarian law at these workshops.

## Cooperation with the National Society

Over the year the ICRC gradually transferred responsibility for a growing number of its activities to the Uganda Red Cross. In passing on its tracing activities and two mobile dissemination units the ICRC handed over a variety of material to the National Society, including vehicles, audio-visual equipment and office supplies. In addition the ICRC gave its remaining relief stocks to the National Society for its disaster preparedness programme.

## NAIROBI

### Regional delegation

(Comoros, Djibouti, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Seychelles, Tanzania)

In 1993 the regional delegation in Nairobi provided a number of services for major ICRC operations in East Africa, notably in Somalia, Sudan, Rwanda and Burundi. It planned the veterinary and agricultural programmes, water and sanitation projects, telecommunications, dissemination activities, tracing work and information/press service. The respective specialists carried out a number of missions to the countries concerned to perform surveys, set up emergency programmes and help resident ICRC delegations solve specific problems. The Nairobi regional delegation also organized the dispatch of medical and relief supplies for ICRC operations throughout the Horn of Africa. This regional pool of services enabled the ICRC to have the flexibility and rapidity necessary to respond to operational needs in the region.

## COMOROS

During the year the regional delegate carried out two missions to the Comoros, where he met the country's authorities and requested authorization for ICRC visits to a number of people detained in connection with the abortive *coup* of September 1992. Discussions on this matter were still going on at the end of the year.



## DJIBOUTI

Following the withdrawal at the end of 1992 of the French military from parts of Djibouti controlled by the FRUD\* movement, the ICRC stepped up its activities in Djibouti in 1993, particularly in the north of the country, which was affected by internal armed conflict.

A permanent ICRC presence, consisting of one doctor, one nurse and one delegate, was established in March in Assa Gueyla, where a rural hospital was set up to care for the sick and wounded. In addition, a flying surgical team was sent for one week in March to treat 90 wounded people, following a particularly heavy bout of fighting. In all, some 100 surgical operations were carried out and 2,000 out-patients treated. In agreement with the parties to the conflict the ICRC evacuated serious cases to the government-controlled town of Djibouti for more sophisticated medical care. In all, 51 people were evacuated to Djibouti for medical or surgical treatment and subsequently transported back to Assa Gueyla. Furthermore, the ICRC provided 11 dispensaries in northern Djibouti with basic drugs.

At the beginning of July government forces launched a military offensive, retaking control over the northern part of the country. As a result of this new situation, the ICRC withdrew its team from Assa Gueyla and discontinued its medical programme in the previously FRUD-controlled zone.

Nevertheless, the ICRC still carried out its protection activities, acting as a neutral intermediary for the simultaneous release of detainees by both sides. On 1 December the Djibouti government released 68 detainees and the FRUD released 28 under ICRC auspices. The institution subsequently organized transport for those freed. Before these releases the ICRC had been regularly visiting people detained by the government for state security offences, and from July on made numerous requests to the FRUD for renewed access to detainees held by it. In total, the ICRC visited 148 detainees in 1993, and gave them the possibility to write Red Cross messages to their relatives.

## KENYA

Kenya's economic difficulties were exacerbated in 1993 by the instability in the north-east of the country caused by the presence of over 350,000 Somali refugees, and by an upsurge of tribal violence between the Kalenjin and the Kikuyu in the Rift Valley of western Kenya. Some groups of civilians displaced by these tribal clashes were assisted by the Kenya Red Cross Society, with ICRC material support.

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\* Front for the Restoration of Unity and Democracy.

Over the year the National Society and the ICRC carried out tracing activities for Somali refugees in Kenya. In February the Secretary-General of the Kenya Red Cross and the ICRC's regional delegate signed a development programme agreement on tracing matters, thus cementing the institutions' cooperation in this respect.

In 1993 the ICRC continued its efforts to promote knowledge of and respect for international humanitarian law. Over the year its delegate to the armed forces in Africa, based in Nairobi, carried out a number of missions to African countries, holding seminars and workshops on international humanitarian law for a total of 474 senior officers of the respective armed forces of 17 countries. The ultimate aim is to have the teaching of the law introduced as an integral part of military training across the continent. From 6 to 10 December a major workshop was held jointly by the ICRC and the OAU\* on international humanitarian law for the armed forces of OAU member States. Forty-three countries were represented.

## MADAGASCAR

At a meeting with representatives of the Ministry of Justice of Madagascar in September the ICRC was informed that it was authorized to visit militants of the federalist movement detained for state security offences. These visits took place from 28 October to 5 November, during which the ICRC visited 86 detainees.

In July the government of Madagascar acceded to the Protocols additional to the Geneva Conventions and in August recognized the competence of the International Fact-Finding Commission.

## TANZANIA

From 18 to 19 August a delegate based in Nairobi went to Zanzibar, where he met the National Chairman and the Secretary-General of the Tanzania Red Cross National Society and the head of the local Red Cross branch. In conjunction with these National Society representatives the delegate organized a dissemination session for 34 members of the local government. The event was covered by national television and radio.

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\* Organization of African Unity.

