

ICRC

99



INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS

ICRC ANNUAL REPORT 1999

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

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

Maps in this report have no political significance.

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

I should like to use this message to recall a few particularly significant events that occurred in 1999, a year during which my predecessor, Cornelio Sommaruga, was in office.

On 12 August, the 50th anniversary of the 1949 Geneva Conventions, a dozen prominent figures from all over the world joined the ICRC in launching a solemn appeal urging better respect for international humanitarian law. United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan was among the organization's many distinguished guests from the political, social and humanitarian spheres on that occasion.

Later in the year, from 1 to 6 November, the 27th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent brought together the States party to the Geneva Conventions, all the components of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and a large number of observers in Geneva. Various commitments were made for the years to come: the participants adopted a Declaration and a Plan of Action intended to mark out the humanitarian agenda for the twenty-first century. The ICRC for its part pledged to devote special attention to making women less vulnerable in time of armed conflict.

At the Conference the ICRC also presented the results of the large-scale survey it had carried out among some 20,000 people affected by war around the world. Thorough analysis of the findings of this ambitious project should lead to better understanding of the reasons why international humanitarian law, although widely known, is still so frequently violated, and this enhanced understanding should enable the ICRC to develop more effective strategies for improving compliance with the law.

In 1999 it became clear that almost all the parameters within which we had become accustomed to working during the Cold War period had changed, with sometimes momentous effects. One disquieting development is the growing difficulty of distinguishing between war and criminal activity, and between combatants and civilians. In such circumstances protection of the civilian population is more crucial than ever. But good intentions bring another danger: that of leading potential victims to believe that they will enjoy effective protection when in fact this cannot be assured. At the same time, the safety of humanitarian personnel remains a major concern. During the year under review, violence again claimed a number of victims among the staff of organizations working in the field.

The international community took a strong line on humanitarian issues, the degree of its mobilization varying widely from one context to another. This eagerness to become involved in humanitarian operations was marred by serious ambiguities, giving rise to fears, in particular, that humanitarian action was being politicized. The notion of "intervention on humanitarian grounds" has resurfaced, combining a political pursuit – intervention – with an activity which quite rightly seeks to remain apart from politics – humanitarian endeavour.

The conflicts in the Balkans, East Timor and Chechnya in 1999 were, in different ways, milestones for the humanitarian community. Each of these situations was unprecedented for the organizations working in the field, and the international response was quite different in each case. Such developments will have profound implications for the ICRC's thinking and practice in the future. But these three major

conflicts, with all the media coverage they attracted, must not make us forget that Angola has again been plunged into violence, that Afghanistan is enduring its twentieth year of fighting, and that Colombia is still struggling to find a way out of civil war.

Our world, which is now home to six billion individuals, appears to be full of promise yet heavy with threat. The events of 1999 prove that this is no time to give ground. Never in modern times have the services of the ICRC been in such demand. A score of wars and about forty situations that could flare up into open conflict at any time – that is the context in which we work. To cope with the situation, the ICRC has had not only to mobilize more and more personnel and resources and rely more heavily on its partnership with the other components of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, but also to strengthen its management capacity, consolidate the tools it has acquired in recent years, and intensify its dialogue with other humanitarian players and with States and international organizations. Not to mention economic circles, whose power and influence over world affairs is increasing, and which humanitarian agencies can no longer afford to ignore. The ICRC's dialogue with economic players is still in its infancy, but will certainly develop in the future.

Finally, the ICRC put all its weight behind public awareness campaigns, whether to promote a ban on anti-personnel mines or the establishment of the International Criminal Court, or to curb the proliferation of light weapons. With regard to the last of these, an ICRC study showed that light weapons are frequently involved in violations of international humanitarian law. It cannot be said often enough: prevention is better than cure. While humanitarian organizations have only a modest role to play in conflict prevention, States, international and regional organizations and business circles can exert decisive influence in this area. Should they fail to do so, the humanitarian agencies will be increasingly called upon to heal the wounds.

In view of developments in the past year, it is essential to determine more precisely the roles that all the different entities concerned (States, international organizations, the military, economic circles, humanitarian agencies) will have to play in humanitarian action in the future. For the problems are not merely a matter of coordination, nor can they be incorporated in a common agenda.

I trust that the present report will not simply serve as the record of an eventful year but will also contribute to reflection on the place of humanitarian action in situations of war and other forms of violence at the dawn of a new century.



Jakob Kellenberger
President of the ICRC

LEGAL BASES

The work of the ICRC is based upon the Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols, the Statutes of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, and the resolutions of International Conferences of the Red Cross and Red Crescent. The ICRC's mission is to provide protection and assistance to victims of armed conflicts. It takes direct and immediate action in response to emergency situations, at the same time promoting preventive measures by developing and spreading knowledge of international humanitarian law.

It was at the prompting of the ICRC that governments adopted the initial Geneva Convention in 1864. In the years since, the ICRC, with the support of the entire Movement, has put constant pressure on governments to adapt international humanitarian law to changing circumstances, especially developments in methods and means of warfare, in order to provide more effective protection and assistance for the victims of armed conflicts.

Today almost all States are bound by the four Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, which, in times of armed conflict, protect wounded, sick and shipwrecked members of the armed forces, prisoners of war and civilians.

Moreover, two Protocols additional to these Conventions were adopted in June 1977. Protocol I protects the victims of international armed conflicts, while Protocol II protects the victims of non-international armed conflicts; in particular, these Additional Protocols have codified the rules which protect the civilian population against the effects of hostilities.

More than three-quarters of all States are now bound by the Protocols.

The legal bases of any action undertaken by the ICRC may be summed up as follows:

- In the four Geneva Conventions of 1949 and Additional Protocol I, the international community gave the ICRC a mandate in the event of **international armed conflict**. In particular, the ICRC has the right to visit prisoners of war and civilian internees. The Conventions also confer on the ICRC a broad right of initiative.
- In situations of **armed conflict which are not international in character**, the ICRC also has a right of initiative recognized by the States and enshrined in the four Geneva Conventions.
- In the event of **internal disturbances and tension**, and in any other situation which warrants humanitarian action, the ICRC has a right of humanitarian initiative which is recognized in the Statutes of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and allows it to offer its services to a government without that offer constituting interference in the internal affairs of the State concerned.

THE ICRC AND THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT

The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement is made up of the National Societies, the ICRC and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. Although each of the Movement's components engages in different activities, they are all united by the same Fundamental Principles: humanity, impartiality, neutrality, independence, voluntary service, unity and universality.

As its founding institution, the ICRC has certain statutory responsibilities towards the Movement. In particular, it is responsible for ensuring respect for and promoting knowledge of the Fundamental Principles, recognizing new National Red Cross or Red Crescent Societies which meet the current conditions for recognition, and discharging the mandates entrusted to it by the International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent. The ICRC takes an active part in the Movement's statutory meetings, which it often organizes jointly with the Federation.

In accomplishing these tasks the ICRC maintains close relations with the National Societies, cooperating with them in areas of mutual interest such as preparedness for situations of armed conflict, development and ratification of and respect for the Geneva Conventions, and dissemination of humanitarian law and the Fundamental Principles. It also acts as lead agency for international relief operations conducted by the Red Cross and Red Crescent in situations of international and non-international armed conflict, internal strife and their direct results, as well as in situations of armed conflict concomitant with natural or technological disasters.

Finally, while fully respecting the Federation's competence in the matter, the ICRC cooperates actively in the development of National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, in particular through technical and legal assistance, by supporting the National Societies' dissemination programmes and by contributing to the training of their staff in areas that fall within its mandate.

AN EXCEPTIONAL YEAR

While 1998 was the year of putting the ICRC's Avenir project into practice, 1999 was that of getting things done. New challenges had to be faced in the field just as new management systems were being introduced.

This was the year of Kosovo and East Timor, two small territories where major political change occurred at the price of suffering on a truly inhuman scale. In both cases access to the victims was momentarily denied, in violation of the rules of international humanitarian law.

By and large, 1999 was an exceptional year for the ICRC. It was exceptional because of the number and extent of operations carried out and the expenditure involved, but also because of the generosity of donors, whose contributions covered the cost of operations in full.

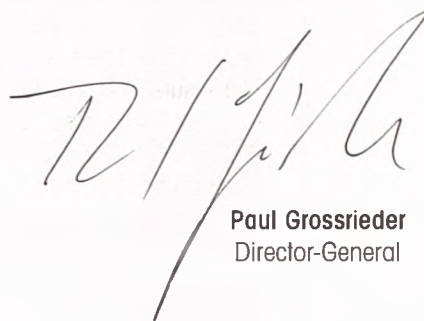
A turning point was reached in the ICRC's cooperation with the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. The Integrated Appeal, launched with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in response to the crisis in the Balkans, was a milestone in the international history of the Movement. To be sure, major technical difficulties had to be overcome, but the policy decision to cooperate in order to give substance to the humanitarian force represented by the Red Cross and Red Crescent was the right one.

Kosovo was also the scene of intensive cooperation between the ICRC and the participating National Societies, which ran a record number of delegated and bilateral projects—21 in all.

One of the main conclusions of the Avenir project was that the way to strengthen the Movement as a whole was by strengthening its components. The large-scale operational deployments of 1999 did not interfere with this process.

Implementation of the analytical accounting system continued, the fund-raising strategy was reviewed, and the new comprehensive approach to assistance (medical and material) was put into practice. The project to integrate management of information systems met with some difficulties, however, as the various units had become used to working in a compartmentalized way. Apart from some modest achievements in the Department of Operations, the "decentralization" project made no progress. In the area of human resources, on the other hand, a new, more flexible and more adaptable remuneration system was developed. The personnel policy in general remains in many respects an open question, as can be seen from the growing involvement of our local staff and the internationalization of staff in general.

Thanks to the new management tools already in use and those now being developed, the ICRC will be able to function in a more professional manner and thus maintain a predominant position among independent humanitarian organizations.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. Grossrieder', is positioned above the printed name and title.

Paul Grossrieder
Director-General

SYMBOLS

The following symbols are used in the coloured boxes giving facts and figures about ICRC activities in 1999



Activities to protect people deprived of their freedom in connection with a conflict or situation of violence



Protection of the civilian population



Restoration of family links



Relief activities



Medical activities



Prosthetic/orthotic activities



Water and habitat programmes



Cooperation with National Societies



Dissemination and information



Mine-awareness programmes

THE ICRC AROUND THE WORLD IN 1999



OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES



ICRC convoys must often overcome difficulty and danger in order to bring essential supplies to those whose lives have been disrupted by conflict. In 1999, the ICRC provided about 160,000 tonnes of relief to an estimated 4.5 million people in 55 countries.

1999 – The end of an era?

The year under review will be remembered as a period of intense activity for the ICRC, which had to deal simultaneously with a number of major crises: those in Sierra Leone, Angola, the Balkans, East Timor and the northern Caucasus were all the subject of intense media coverage, but needs were no less great in the Republic of the Congo, Sudan, Ethiopia and Eritrea, the Great Lakes region of Africa, Colombia, Sri Lanka and Afghanistan. The year was marked not only by a surge in the number of conflicts, of which only the main ones are listed above, but also by a series of natural disasters that worsened the toll paid in lost lives and material damage by countries and even entire regions that were already economically and socially deprived.

A discussion of 1999 that did not touch upon the form and magnitude of the international community's reactions to crises in various regions of the world would overlook an essential aspect of change in the international system. Indeed, how can one not see the contrast between the attention and resources devoted by some members of the international community to regions they consider strategic, such as the Balkans, and what they give to more distant lands where the humanitarian needs of men, women and children are quantitatively greater but largely ignored? How can one fail to be concerned about the decision to take action in one context as opposed to another? Why did the plight of hundreds of thousands of civilians in the Republic of the Congo not stir the conscience of the international community, apart from humanitarian organizations? One thing is certain: as the century drew to a close, there was a long way to go on the path to universal responsibility for human rights and international humanitarian law and the punishment of violations of those rights.

The way in which a crisis is managed thus depends on the political and economic interests involved. In Sierra Leone, for example, it was an African intervention force, ECOMOG,* that regained control of the capital, Freetown, but it was the international community's express and sustained determination, coupled with pragmatism, that paved the way for the signing of a peace accord offering a share of power to the former rebels.

In Angola, the international community, wearied by more than 30 years of war, was unable to find a solution to the new episode in the crisis. The resumption of hostilities forced the UN to withdraw its observers, thus leaving the antagonists face to face.

The trench warfare between Ethiopia and Eritrea, which began in 1998, was characterized by an exceedingly high number of victims. Tens of thousands died, mostly military personnel, and hundreds of thousands were displaced or forced into exile, yet the conflict rated barely a mention in the Western media, and the peace emissaries were not given the means to accomplish their aims.

* ECOMOG: Economic Community Monitoring Group (of West African States)

Who did not foresee the crisis in East Timor? The parties involved had declared their intentions well before the referendum, but post-ballot violence could not be avoided. That the crisis was resolved is thanks to the rapidity with which general and concerted action was subsequently taken, from the Security Council resolution to the humanitarian deployment by way of the dispatch of international troops.

The hostilities in the northern Caucasus also forced thousands of civilians in urgent need of protection and assistance to take to the roads. The way the conflict was handled, in the heat of the media spotlight, revealed that the willingness to use coordinated intervention was limited.

The Kosovo crisis put the right to intervene back on the international political agenda, and re-opened the debate on State sovereignty and the notion of a "just war".

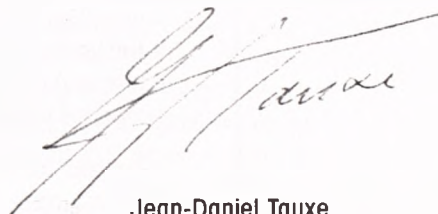
The year was exceptional in both the number and scale of conflicts. Whether the conflicts were long-lasting, had been re-ignited, were new or stagnating, it would seem that in most parts of the globe where there was reason to fear that the situation would deteriorate, a major crisis did indeed take place. For this reason, the ICRC maintained an active presence in 60 delegations, its 1,200 expatriates and 9,500 local staff endeavouring to meet the needs resulting from a score of active armed conflicts and thirty-odd situations of tension. It visited 228,000 persons deprived of their freedom for security reasons in 66 countries, and provided assistance to a total of about 5 million victims.

Throughout the year, the ICRC strove to respond to successive crises that often involved an element of unpredictability, such as their unexpected scale, or a sudden renewal of violence in the midst of a peace process, or the breakdown of the democratic process. In order to meet these challenges, the ICRC revised its objectives and extended its budgets ten times.

The nature of the ICRC's work did not change; the budget increases were attributable not to any modification in ICRC programmes but to their intensification, especially those involving food aid or protection. In Angola, the Republic of the Congo, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Sudan and Somalia, in the Balkans and in the northern Caucasus especially, displaced persons or destitute residents numbered in the millions.

To be sure, circumstances did improve in some countries and in these the ICRC consequently reduced its operations; such was the case, for example, in Cambodia. In other places, doors were opened to the ICRC, prompting it to expand its activities; this happened in Myanmar, Algeria, Nepal and Venezuela, where visits to persons deprived of their freedom were allowed to begin.

As regards coordinated humanitarian activities, at least within the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, the year saw the Movement's components adopt an integrated approach during and after the Balkan crisis; the lessons of that approach remain to be drawn.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Tauxe', is positioned above the printed name and title.

Jean-Daniel Tauxe
Director of Operations

One mission, with one aim and one approach

The ICRC's mission is to ensure respect for the spirit and the letter of international humanitarian law. Protecting people affected by conflicts or violence involves minimizing the dangers to which they are exposed, preventing or putting a stop to violations, safeguarding their rights and ensuring that their voices are heard, and providing them with support.

On the basis of information gathered in the field and analysed in the light of humanitarian law and its principles, ICRC delegates make representations to the authorities concerned with a view to improving the situation of the populations concerned. At the same time, they provide direct assistance in the form of food and agricultural aid, medical care and so on.

The ICRC works close to the victims of conflict and violence, giving preference to confidential dialogue with the authorities, whether these are States or unofficial bodies.

A multifaceted strategy

The ICRC first reminds the authorities, official or otherwise, of their responsibility to protect the individuals and populations under their control, i.e. first and foremost to ensure their physical integrity and dignity. It recommends specific improvements and preventive and/or corrective measures on the basis of its own, independent assessments.

At the same time, the ICRC takes action to meet the most pressing needs by:

- providing assistance to anticipate or meet needs;
- evacuating and/or transferring people in danger;
- restoring and maintaining family links and tracing people who have been reported missing or who have no news of their next-of-kin.

Respect for the rights of the individual can only be assured in an environment that is favourable to the prevention and repression of violations of humanitarian law and human rights. Such an environment can only exist if the competent authorities, civil society, the international community and the various international and intergovernmental organizations concerned are fired by the same motivation and determination and unite their efforts to that end. Certain ICRC activities contribute to the ongoing construction of just such an environment, namely:

- spreading knowledge of humanitarian principles and law among law enforcement bodies and the armed forces;
- educational programmes on humanitarian issues for civil society, in cooperation with the local media;
- technical and material cooperation with certain prison administrations;
- acting as a neutral intermediary.

The constant challenge of protecting civilians

Today, not only are civilian populations more seriously affected by hostilities, they are also deliberately targeted with increasing frequency. Massacres, hostage-taking, looting, rape, harassment, intimidation, displacement of populations and the deliberate denial of access to food and drinking water during armed conflicts are just some examples of acts that cause suffering and spread terror among the civilian population. Caught up in the fighting between rival factions, civilians are sometimes just as much at risk or even more so than detained combatants. Immunity for civilian populations is a basic principle of international humanitarian law; civilians not taking part in the fighting should on no account be subjected to attack and should be spared and protected. The 1949 Geneva Conventions and in particular their Additional Protocols of 1977 contain specific rules concerning the protection of civilians and civilian property. In situations that are not defined as international armed conflicts, the civilian population is entitled to protection under Article 3 common to the four Geneva Conventions. In the case of internal strife, civilians are protected by virtue of the fundamental principles of international humanitarian law and the inalienable core of international human rights law.

In order to implement the protection strategy described above, the ICRC also maintains a regular presence in high-risk areas. ICRC delegates remain in close contact with all potential perpetrators of acts of violence, including the armed forces, rebel combat units, the police and security forces.

In certain contexts in which the security situation is extremely precarious, the challenge is to act on behalf of the population even though no delegates can be deployed in the field. Chechnya is one such case: between 1997 and 1999, the ICRC worked with teams formed solely by national workers, promoting cooperation with the local branch of the Russian Red Cross and implementing programmes to provide food aid, water and health care. The Red Cross message network also continued to operate, enabling the members of separated families to remain in contact. In 1999, however, especially after hostilities flared up again late in the year, the ICRC was unable to take satisfactory action to meet the needs of the civilian population and detainees.

Consultation between humanitarian agencies to ensure effective protection

One of the most striking features of the contemporary humanitarian scene is the proliferation of agencies working in the field. This makes it possible to cover many protection needs more fully, but it also creates a growing risk of duplicate efforts and even contradictory action and interference. Consultation among all those involved is an ethical, legal and operational imperative dictated by the right of people to enjoy maximum protection, and the ICRC therefore established closer contacts with other humanitarian agencies in order to ensure enhanced protection.

The acute vulnerability of those deprived of their freedom

Ensuring respect for physical integrity and dignity is the main objective of ICRC activities on behalf of people deprived of their freedom. To be deprived of one's freedom is in itself to be in a vulnerable situation vis-à-vis the detaining authorities and the prison environment. This vulnerability is particularly acute in a context of conflict and violence, where excessive and illegal recourse to force may become commonplace and where the effects of structural deficiencies are exacerbated.

The ICRC acts to prevent or put a stop to disappearances and summary executions, torture, ill-treatment and the severing of family links, and to improve conditions of detention, taking the context into account.

Visits to detainees are carried out in accordance with the ICRC's particular *modus operandi*: delegates meet detainees in their places of detention in private. Each case is examined in relation to all other detainees in the same situation, to whom the ICRC must also have access, wherever they are held. Delegates take full details of the identity of the detainees, whose individual cases are then monitored until their release. The detainees talk to the delegates about the problems they face. The delegates take comprehensive measures on the basis of their evaluation and in accordance with the detainees' wishes. Depending on the circumstances, those measures may involve, for example, confidential talks with the authorities concerned, an assistance programme and/or action to restore family links.

While refraining from taking any stand on the reasons for the arrest or capture of detainees, the ICRC spares no effort to ensure that they enjoy the judicial guarantees enshrined in international humanitarian law and customary law.

First and foremost, the right to survive

In 1999, detained men, women and children continued to die or had to survive in inhumane and degrading conditions. Overcrowding due to a policy of mass arrests and/or the paralysis of the administration of justice, lack of resources, indifference and negligence were the most common causes of the inhumanity suffered in so many cases.

Because of the acknowledged inability of the authorities to shoulder their responsibilities, the entire prison population in numerous countries proved to be in such dire need in humanitarian terms that the ICRC was compelled to take action on a massive scale to save lives.

Rwanda was the most glaring example. The conditions of detention were inadequate for the high number of detainees (almost 125,000), prompting the ICRC to pursue its distributions of food, medicines and other basic necessities and to construct and maintain latrines, stoves and water supply systems in the country's prisons.

In Côte d'Ivoire and Guinea-Bissau, too, the ICRC provided emergency food aid to save the lives of particularly vulnerable detainees.

IN 1999 THE ICRC:

- *visited 225,313 people deprived of their freedom – prisoners of war, civilian internees or detainees – in a situation of conflict or violence, and monitored 166,075 of them throughout their period of detention;*

- *visited 1,726 places of detention in more than 60 countries;*

- *provided detainees and their families with material and medical assistance worth 13 million Swiss francs.*

OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Similarly, the ICRC distributed basic necessities in some places of detention in Afghanistan and was involved in work on infrastructure, enabling detainees to withstand extremely harsh weather conditions.

In the southern Caucasus, large-scale programmes to combat tuberculosis in prisons were maintained in Azerbaijan and Georgia and were in the process of being set up in Armenia.

Protecting family links: a top priority

The ICRC Central Tracing Agency endeavours to restore and maintain family links in all situations of conflict and violence. It has hundreds of thousands of displaced people, refugees, detainees and missing persons on its tracing files. Those who are successfully traced are put in touch with their families thanks to the world-wide network supported by the ICRC and comprising 176 National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

Cooperation between the ICRC and the National Societies was greatly extended in 1999, the former continuing its efforts to help the latter build their capacities in the areas of training, development and tracing services, and providing them with material and financial support. Seminars offering opportunities for the exchange of experiences and for training were also organized, as in previous years, in the Horn of Africa, Moscow and Geneva. In 1999, the ICRC extended its support for the development of tracing services and training to National Societies in southern Africa and South Asia.

New technology at the service of separated families

During the Balkans conflict, the ICRC set up a special Internet website, the "Family News Network", which enabled separated family members to find each other by consulting the lists of people posted at the site and to exchange family news by e-mail. This new tool was a useful addition to the other means used to help restore family links, namely Red Cross mobile telephones made available to displaced people and refugees, the broadcasting of lists of names over the radio and the collection and delivery of Red Cross messages.

While in Kosovo a tiny proportion of the displaced population had mobile phones, in most of the world, from Afghanistan to Sudan or in the southern Caucasus, the Red Cross message remains the simplest and most effective way of enabling separated families to keep in touch or to re-establish contact with one another.

IN 1999 THE ICRC:

- *collected 337,776 Red Cross messages and distributed 304,291;*
- *reunited 4,236 families;*
- *issued 7,646 ICRC travel documents;*
- *found 3,154 people sought by their families;*
- *received 12,865 new tracing requests.*

The Central Tracing Agency in the midst of conflict

In 1999 as in the past, the ICRC Central Tracing Agency played its treaty-based role in international conflicts, collecting, recording and forwarding information about protected people, particularly prisoners of war and civilian internees. For example, during the conflicts between Ethiopia and Eritrea and in central Africa (Democratic Republic of the Congo/Rwanda), ICRC delegates visited prisoners of war and civilian internees and restored contact between separated family members.

For detainees and their families, receiving news from each other is always a major event. In many situations, the ICRC gave prisoners of war, civilian internees, security detainees and even penal law detainees the chance to communicate with their loved ones.

By the same token, the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement works to restore links between separated family members once a conflict has come to an end. During the wave of violence that followed the announcement of the results of the independence vote in East Timor in early September 1999, more than 270,000 people fled their homes to take refuge in West Timor, on neighbouring Indonesian islands or in other countries such as Australia and the Philippines. In view of the systematic destruction of the communications networks in East Timor, the people remaining there were unable to keep in contact with members of their family outside the country. More than 2,000 families were able to telephone their loved ones from ICRC offices; these calls involved mainly people on other Indonesian islands and in Portugal and Australia.

In view of the success of the operation carried out between March and June 1999 for the Kosovar refugees, the names of people in East Timor were broadcast daily over several international radio stations covering the region.

Unaccompanied children and the principle of family reunification

The preservation of family unity is a universal principle guaranteed by law. The ICRC does everything in its power to reunite people who have been separated by events, actively searching for them and making arrangements for them to be brought together again.

In 1999, the ICRC continued to trace and reunite people who had lost touch with their families after being separated by front lines, as in Afghanistan and Kivu (in central Africa), or by national borders, as between Abkhazia and other Central Asian republics.

The issue of unaccompanied children has always been one of the ICRC's chief concerns. In Africa's Great Lakes region, activities begun in 1994 to help them find their families were continued. Many more refugee children living in Goma (Democratic Republic of the Congo) were reunited with their parents in Rwanda in 1999. In Rwanda itself, the ICRC initiated talks with the government authorities to discuss long-term social and legal arrangements for a number of unaccompanied children, the chances of their parents being found growing slimmer with the passing of time.

OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES

The ICRC also took action to help children in the Balkans and East Timor. It swiftly set up a programme to identify and register unaccompanied children; in many cases, the parents were found and the children reunited with their families.

In East Timor, more than 400 unaccompanied children were identified and registered in the wake of the disturbances that flared up in September. The majority of them were in camps in West Timor, although there were also 60 in Australia. Great efforts were made actively to trace the parents, with a view to speeding up the process of bringing families together again.

Dialogue with the main humanitarian organizations and institutions working to help children affected by conflict was intensified in 1999. Meetings aimed at promoting cooperation and coordination between humanitarian agencies were held on three occasions, in Geneva, New York and Paris. They resulted in a consensus on ethical principles and the formulation of draft guidelines concerning activities aimed at helping children. This process is expected to result in the production and distribution in 2000 of a guide on professional standards in this regard.

ICRC travel papers: a document that has proved its worth

Sometimes, only a travel document issued by the ICRC will allow a needy person with no identity papers to rejoin his or her family members who have settled in a third country or to return to his or her native country. As the ranks of refugees and asylum-seekers swell, the ICRC finds itself issuing a growing number of travel documents for people authorized to settle in host countries. In 1999, more than 7,600 documents were issued all over the world, including in countries such as Egypt, Syria, Jordan, South Africa, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Pakistan and India.

The fate of missing people: a constant concern

Even when the guns fall silent, war continues to haunt the families of missing people, as they wonder - are they still alive? Are they wounded, or imprisoned? These families have the right to know. International humanitarian law requires all parties to a conflict to provide answers to their questions.

The experience of recent years has shown, however, how difficult it is to set in motion the mechanisms needed to find out what has happened to missing people.

In the former Yugoslavia, while the process established by the ICRC for collecting information from the authorities was considered indispensable, and everyone agreed that it was beginning to yield results, the number of replies given by the parties concerned has not been satisfactory. The numerous exchanges that continued to take place in 1999 with other partners involved in this undertaking, with a view to setting up a permanent national institution, did not bear fruit. The victims and their families being its chief concern, the ICRC also increased its support for the families of missing people and their associations, publishing, for example, a vade mecum of the laws and regulations relating to the legal status and rights of the families of missing persons.

In Kosovo, acting on the experience acquired in the former Yugoslavia, the ICRC immediately opened eight centres for the families of missing people. The centres had

three tasks: receiving requests to trace missing people with a view to ascertaining their whereabouts, giving legal and administrative advice to the families of missing people, and providing those families with psychological support.

In the Middle East, the Tripartite Commission chaired by the ICRC continued its work to shed light on the fate of people who disappeared during the Gulf War. So far, however, results have failed to meet expectations.

Access to detainees: a constantly changing picture

In 1999 the ICRC gained access to detainees it had never visited before. In other cases, though, little progress was made with regard to the protection of detainees and civilian populations, and in some instances the situation actually deteriorated.

In Albania and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, the ICRC had to deal with the influx of some 800,000 refugees fleeing Kosovo. Its tracing agency set up various programmes aimed at restoring family links and reuniting families.

When the fighting ended, the ICRC focused its efforts in this regard on Kosovo, collecting requests to trace people who went missing during the conflict and exchanging thousands of Red Cross messages, particularly between people belonging to minorities and their families living outside Kosovo.

In the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, the ICRC visited over 2,000 people detained in connection with the conflict in Kosovo. It also facilitated the release of about 230 people and arranged for them to travel home to Kosovo.

Around 40,000 Red Cross messages were exchanged between people still living in East Timor and those who had fled the violence and sought refuge, mainly on the western part of the island.

Under the agreement reached with the government of Nepal in 1998, the ICRC continued to visit people detained in connection with the situation of tension affecting the country and being held in district, regional and central prisons. It also gained access to people detained in police stations.

In the Caucasus, the ICRC acted on the authorities' oral permission to visit people detained in Abkhazia, including those imprisoned in connection with the conflict. In Tajikistan and Azerbaijan, it was still denied access to all persons detained on security grounds.

In the autonomous Palestinian territories, the ICRC was authorized to visit detainees being held by the military intelligence service. Throughout the year, delegates continued to visit people detained under the responsibility of the security forces.

The Myanmar authorities granted the ICRC permission to visit all people detained in the country. The visits began in May 1999 and continued throughout the year.

On the South American continent, the ICRC was granted access in Venezuela to 52 people charged under military law.

In Africa, many favourable developments helped the ICRC to fulfil its mandate more fully in relation to prisoners taken in international conflicts and people detained in connection with internal conflicts and strife.

OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES

The ICRC thus resumed its visits to prisons in Burundi after suspending its activities for almost three years following the June 1996 killing of three of its delegates. The visits began in April 1999 with the consent of the government. By the end of the year, delegates had visited eight Ministry of Justice prisons.

In November, Cameroon and Nigeria took the decision to release all prisoners of war and civilian internees captured during the border dispute over the Bakassi peninsula. Nigeria finally agreed to grant the ICRC access to Cameroonian prisoners with a view to a global repatriation. The repatriation operation, which was carried out under ICRC auspices, involved 124 Nigerian nationals and 88 Cameroonians, including the mortal remains of one prisoner who had died in captivity.

The ICRC expanded its treaty-based humanitarian work in relation to the international armed conflict between Eritrea and Ethiopia. In Ethiopia, its delegates visited Eritrean civilian internees and prisoners of war on a regular basis. In Eritrea, they were able to visit imprisoned Ethiopian civilians, although no progress was made on the question of access to prisoners of war. In both countries, the ICRC paid particular attention to the situation of civilian populations protected under the Fourth Geneva Convention. It considerably extended its services aimed at restoring family links through Red Cross messages in both Ethiopia and Eritrea and arranged for the first unaccompanied children to be reunited with their families.

With regard to the conflict in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the ICRC obtained permission from the government to visit various categories of detainees. Visits were made in Kinshasa and Katanga. An agreement permitting visits was also signed with the opposition movement, the RCD,* and the ICRC therefore visited people detained in Goma, Kindu and Kisangani. At the end of 1999, steps were being taken to obtain access to places of detention that had not yet been visited.

The ICRC also visited prisoners of war captured during the conflict. In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, delegates visited 98 Rwandan prisoners and one Ugandan prisoner held by the Zimbabwean authorities, as well as six Chadian prisoners of war held by the Ugandan authorities and moved to Uganda in November. In Rwanda, delegates visited 40 Zimbabwean prisoners of war and 11 Namibian detainees.

Four Zimbabwean prisoners of war and one Rwandan prisoner were repatriated on medical grounds in three operations carried out under ICRC auspices in April, July and October. In the Republic of the Congo, an agreement was signed on ICRC visits to detainees following negotiations with the authorities. In Equatorial Guinea, however, the ICRC was still unable to visit people arrested on security grounds according to its standard procedures.

In November, the authorities of the Republic of Guinea granted the ICRC permission to visit detainees arrested for belonging to opposition movements, specifically for their part in the 1996 riots. A first round of visits to the country's prisons began in December.

* RCD: "Rassemblement congolais pour la démocratie"

OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Following the latest wave of hostilities in Guinea-Bissau, the ICRC was rapidly granted access in May to more than 700 military and civilian loyalists who had surrendered or been arrested by the incoming authorities. The loyalists were provided with food and non-food aid.

In March 1999, the ICRC began a round of visits to places of detention in Cameroon (prisons, police stations), under an agreement reached with the authorities permitting delegates to monitor detainees arrested in relation to the people's secessionist movement of the English-speaking part of the country and the disturbances that occurred in March 1997.

In southern Africa, the ICRC visited people held in Namibia in connection with the events in the Caprivi Strip (August 1999), and monitored their conditions of detention.

In Angola, despite numerous representations, the authorities did not grant the ICRC permission to visit prisoners taken when the hostilities were renewed.

In the Middle East, in relation to the aftermath of the conflict between Iran and Iraq (1980-1988), 724 Iraqi prisoners of war held in Iran were repatriated under ICRC auspices. The ICRC also visited a further 278 Iraqi prisoners of war held in Iran to find out if they wished to be repatriated or not. These visits formed part of ICRC activities aimed at the repatriation, pursuant to the provisions of the Third Geneva Convention of all the prisoners of war still held in Iraq.

With regard to the aftermath of the Western Sahara conflict, 1,800 Moroccan prisoners, most of whom had been imprisoned for over twenty years, were still being held by the Polisario Front in spite of the cease-fire signed in 1991. ICRC teams that included specialized medical personnel carried out several missions on the spot, with a view to monitoring the conditions in which the prisoners were being held and to providing them with the opportunity to keep in touch with their families. The ICRC has repeatedly reminded all the parties involved of the right of these prisoners to be repatriated.

In 1999, the ICRC was granted access to people detained in Algeria. Visits were made to various Ministry of Justice prison facilities in different parts of the country.

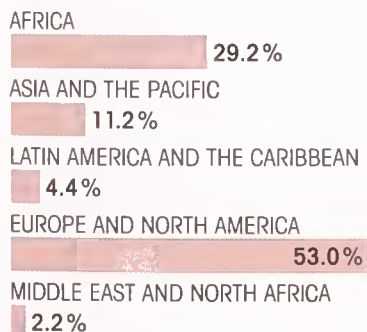
Lastly, in November an ICRC team carried out a first round of visits to central prisons in Aden and Sana'a in Yemen, while in Qatar a first visit was made to security detainees.

OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES

IN 1999 THE ICRC:

• *distributed 104,700 tonnes of food, 12,800 tonnes of seed and 42,000 tonnes of other relief supplies worth a total of 141 million Swiss francs in 55 countries.*

GEOGRAPHICAL BREAKDOWN OF ICRC RELIEF SUPPLIES DISPATCHED IN 1999



Assistance: meeting the growing range of needs

As in previous years, the ICRC had to undertake a wide range of activities in 1999 to assist the hundreds of thousands of victims of the many conflicts being waged. Prisoners, the wounded, sick and maimed, the displaced and the besieged, received ICRC assistance irrespective of the nature of the conflict, the media coverage it was given or the culture of the inhabitants of the region or area concerned. The Health and Relief Division's mission is to maintain or restore acceptable living conditions for all the victims in all circumstances, so as to reduce their dependence on outside aid. That assistance is provided within the more general framework of activities to protect the fundamental rights and dignity of the individual, in accordance with the provisions of international humanitarian law.

Activities on the ground are carried out in accordance with an order of priorities designed to reduce the incidence of disease and death among the victims of armed conflict, in particular the most vulnerable groups, as rapidly and effectively as possible. This essentially means giving precedence to access to water, food and basic necessities for survival, with due regard to local custom, before dealing with matters relating to hygiene and access to medical care. The ICRC carries out these activities in compliance with ethical rules such as those laid down in the Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and NGOs* in Disaster Relief, and with internationally recognized minimum standards.

In 1999 the ICRC also encountered a variety of situations which required the development of diversified strategies for providing assistance for victims, among them:

- the new crises in Kosovo (Federal Republic of Yugoslavia) and East Timor, which called for rapid action and greater coordination among humanitarian organizations;
- long-standing conflicts that flared anew or persisted (for example in Angola, Afghanistan and Sudan), thus creating or recreating extremely difficult conditions for civilians in particularly unstable environments;
- stagnating conflict situations, for example in Rwanda, Georgia, Abkhazia and Bosnia-Herzegovina, that required the ICRC to maintain operations undertaken in the heat of battle;
- particularly difficult security situations in which it was impossible to deploy expatriates and where "remote control" operations were conducted through local workers, as was the case in the northern Caucasus and Somalia.

In all these instances, integrated assistance models were used to alleviate the suffering of the victims while taking account of specific local conditions.

In 1998, internal restructuring had led to the establishment of the Health and Relief Division and the Logistics Division. In 1999, the new structures were put in place in Geneva and in the field, with almost all the delegations concerned adopting new working procedures at the same time. Within the Health and Relief Division, activities were grouped around three units which operate in concert: water and habitat, economic security and health services.

* NGO: non-governmental organization

Water and habitat

The Water and Habitat Unit deals with matters relating to shelter and the maintenance and restoration of water supply systems. Its activities include the distribution of drinking water to communities affected by war, the repair of water purification and supply systems (from family wells to the water systems of cities), the supply of water to establishments such as hospitals, clinics, orphanages and prisons, the construction and improvement of latrines, and the control of vectors of disease. It calls on expertise in hydraulics and hydrogeology, and civil, environmental and chemical engineering to implement its activities. The Unit is also responsible for the construction and maintenance of the security infrastructure at ICRC delegations.

In 1999, water and habitat programmes were implemented in some thirty contexts. For example:

- water was distributed and transit camps, health facilities and latrines built for refugees arriving from Kosovo at the border town of Kukes in Albania;
- an emergency programme was set up in Novi Sad (Federal Republic of Yugoslavia) following the destruction of the bridges over the Danube which also carried the water distribution networks (initially water was distributed by tanker, then around thirty fixed distribution points and two small treatment plants were set up, enabling the local authorities simultaneously to repair the networks that had been destroyed);
- the water supply systems were repaired in the principal towns of East Timor;
- spare parts and chemical products were supplied to the water departments of a dozen towns in the region controlled by the RCD in the Democratic Republic of Congo, thus providing over two million people with access to drinking water;
- a programme was drawn up and launched to refurbish about twenty hospital establishments in Iraq;
- kitchens, latrines and water supply systems were repaired in many prisons, in particular in Ethiopia, Uganda, Rwanda and Burundi.

Together with the Stockholm International Water Institute, the unit helped organize the Water Symposium held in the Swedish capital from 8 to 10 August.

Economic security

The Economic Security Unit analyses the economic situation of the communities affected by armed conflict. Its activities include in particular monitoring the resources to which communities have access, the existing survival mechanisms and the measures to be taken to make up for the deficiencies observed. The principal aim is to use the input of nutritionists, agronomists, veterinary surgeons, economists and relief distribution specialists to ensure that communities affected by war retain their economic self-sufficiency where it is under threat, or are able to survive and regain such self-sufficiency where it has been lost.

IN 1999 THE ICRC:

- *dispatched water and sanitation teams to 31 countries to provide displaced people with safe water and/or to repair water treatment and distribution systems in towns and regions affected by conflict;*
- *launched or completed about 200 water and habitat programmes by means of projects delegated to the National Red Cross Societies of 14 countries;*
- *provided and/or installed water supply and sanitation equipment worth 16.8 million Swiss francs.*

OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES

In 1999, the increase in the number of situations in which the Economic Security Unit's activities proved to be necessary resulted in a training drive to ensure the availability of a sufficient number of competent personnel. That drive will be continued in the coming years.

During the period under review, the Economic Security Unit implemented programmes in about twenty situations. For example:

- monthly half-rations of food were distributed to over 200,000 vulnerable persons among the displaced and resident communities of Huambo and Kuito in Angola;
- several dozen kilometres of karezes (underground irrigation channels) were repaired in Afghanistan;
- numerous programmes (community kitchens, distribution of heating material, agricultural rehabilitation, etc.) were planned and implemented in conjunction with other organizations in the field so as to allow tens of thousands of displaced persons to survive the rigours of the Balkan winter in dignity;
- seeds were distributed to 63,000 families who had been displaced in northern Uganda;
- food to supplement the rations supplied by the government authorities was distributed to roughly 86,000 people being held in Rwandan prisons.

IN 1999 THE ICRC:

- *distributed medicines and medical supplies worth 25.6 million Swiss francs, to almost 200 hospitals in 54 countries;*

- *sent medical teams to and supplied most of the medicines, medical material and equipment for 11 hospitals in Africa and Asia, which admitted approximately 48,000 patients and where 200,000 people received outpatient treatment.*

Community health

The aim of the Health Services Unit is to give communities access to basic preventive and curative health care that meets universally recognized standards of quality and provides an adequate level of cover. The Unit does this by offering four services: community health, surgery, prison health and rehabilitation for the disabled.

A medical service was started in 1999 to provide specialist support (planning, professional and technical) and guarantee best-practice standards in primary health and general medical programmes. This reflects a marked increase in the ICRC's involvement in programmes of this type in comparison with previous years.

In 1999, programmes of this kind were carried out in about twenty contexts. Examples are:

- assistance programmes for health centres and dispensaries in Colombia and Angola;
- tuberculosis-control programmes such as those carried out in prisons in Georgia and Azerbaijan;
- secondary medical care such as that dispensed by the medical services of the hospitals in Lokichokio (Kenya), southern Sudan and Dili (East Timor);
- programmes to support primary health care promotion policies in post-conflict situations, in particular in Mali and Bosnia-Herzegovina;
- new activities such as counselling programmes.

OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Surgical assistance

The aim of this service is to provide support for local health systems and, less frequently, temporarily to provide all surgical care in their stead. Generally speaking, the need for surgical services increases when an armed conflict breaks out, since all sectors of the population, both civilian and combatant, can be wounded.

The demands on the service were particularly heavy in 1999, not including its long-standing activities in Afghanistan and Sudan. For example:

- in East Timor the ICRC was able to keep Dili General Hospital, the only central hospital in the eastern part of the island, operating almost without interruption;
- in Ethiopia and Eritrea, the site of particularly bloody trench warfare, the ICRC set up an assistance programme to provide surgical material, equipment and medicines for hospitals on both sides of the front line, to help them cope with the influx of wounded, and launched a training programme on maxillofacial remedial surgery;
- in Sierra Leone the ICRC started a training and support programme at Kenema hospital when it returned to the country in July;
- a programme got under way in Iraq to reequip completely the operating theatres of around twenty hospitals.

Rehabilitation for the disabled

The aim of this service is to provide all disabled people in target communities with access to physical rehabilitation programmes and to quality prosthetic and orthotic material. The sophistication of the tasks involved, the complexity and cost of the means taken and the fact that the objectives are of necessity long term make it difficult to hand over responsibility for such programmes to another party. The ICRC therefore provides financial and material support, through the Special Fund for the Disabled, for certain programmes whose entire management has been handed over to the authorities.

In 1999, the 29 limb-fitting centres supported by the ICRC in 14 countries manufactured a total of 12,500 prostheses and 8,500 orthoses. These figures include the newly established centres in Sri Lanka, Sudan and Myanmar.

Three major projects were set up in 1999. They involved:

- the beginning of a process to improve the quality of mass-produced orthopaedic components by centralizing production units;
- an external evaluation of the quality of and the procedures used in the past twenty years in physical rehabilitation programmes;
- a conference, attended by all ICRC heads of project and several outside experts, on the approach to physical rehabilitation with regard to patients and partners.

IN 1999 THE ICRC:

•fitted 14,383 amputees in its 29 limb-fitting centres in 14 countries, including 8,896 victims of anti-personnel mines;

•made 14,445 components (artificial knees and feet and various appliances) for other organizations working with amputees;

•provided materials worth 1.9 million Swiss francs for its workshops' production of prosthetic/orthotic appliances.

Prison health

This service seeks, as part of its specific activities for protected detainees, to ensure that this particular category of victim also has access to care and enjoys acceptable conditions of detention. In this connection, the use of torture and the means of preventing it are given much careful consideration and are the subject of ICRC representations.

In 1999 the ICRC's activities in this respect were particularly significant in the following contexts:

- in Rwanda, where over 86,000 people were being held in difficult conditions;
- in the Western Sahara, where people who had been detained for over twenty years required care adapted to their situation and advanced years;
- in Burundi, when the ICRC resumed its activities in the spring.

Members of the service attended meetings and international conferences on prison health, medical ethics, torture and the victims of torture.

Preparing for health emergencies and training health professionals

The ICRC has been training professionals for many years to deal with health emergencies affecting large groups of people. The first HELP* course was held in 1986, in cooperation with WHO* and the University of Geneva. In 1999, the ICRC ran seven HELP courses in cooperation with various universities and tested a new module (HELP II) focusing on health, ethics, law and policies in armed conflicts. In such situations, health professionals are faced with hard choices and issues that go beyond caring for the wounded and sick. The purpose of HELP II is to provide ethical and practical guidelines for dealing with problems such as triage of the wounded, evidence of torture, the effects of economic sanctions on health, etc. It also aims to familiarize participants with the legal instruments and norms limiting the suffering that may be inflicted and punishing abuses. Ethical issues such as equitable treatment, gender sensitivity and respect for fundamental rights are also among the topics addressed in the new course.

War surgery is another field where ICRC experience is valued, and in 1999 the organization ran nine courses for military and civilian surgeons in Africa, Europe and the Middle East. In Kabul, it ran a course in hospital administration. Each course was attended by an average of 30 participants.

* HELP: Health Emergencies in Large Populations

* WHO: World Health Organization

The ICRC is also eager to share its expertise within the framework of university and other higher-education courses. It continued to give lectures at the University of Aix-en-Provence for students working towards the NOHA* diploma. It played an active part in setting up the University of Geneva's one year postgraduate course in humanitarian action, which was launched in the 1998-1999 academic year, and presented a two-week module at the beginning of the year.

Another aspect of the ICRC's involvement in academic activities in the medical sphere are the numerous scientific articles written on the basis of its field work, evaluations and analyses. In 1999, the British Medical Journal devoted its entire August issue to medicine and international humanitarian law. ICRC staff provided most of the articles and statistics. The ICRC uses such channels, in addition to its own medical publications, to help promote the results of its experience and research.

Logistics: streamlining the system

In 1999, all ICRC procurement, purchasing, warehousing and transport activities were combined into a single unit - the Logistics Division created in December 1998 - to provide comprehensive and more cost-effective support for operations, and the consequent structural changes were made both at headquarters and in the field. With regard to operations, these changes led to closer monitoring of lead times and deliveries to the field, greater complementarity between headquarters, regional logistic centres and delegations, and better use of regional emergency stocks. At the same time, procedures were tightened up with a view to standardizing items and specifications, streamlining ordering processes, defining purchasing policies and globalizing purchases. Finally, the Division implemented an integrated approach with respect to costing, reporting, training, documentation and other activities, together with the Finance and Administration Division.

Two main logistics centres for worldwide action

Two logistics centres provided back-up for operations worldwide. The one in Geneva specialized in medical and sanitation equipment, while the one in Nairobi specialized in relief supplies, with an emergency stock of food and non-food items sufficient to cover the needs of about 100,000 people for three months. Between them, the two centres enabled the ICRC to respond rapidly to large-scale humanitarian needs in 1999 in the Balkans, Angola and East Timor, to name but a few.

* NOHA: Network on humanitarian assistance

OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Swift response in times of trouble

During the Balkans crisis, the two logistics centres were reinforced by temporary back-up structures in Italy, Croatia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia that managed the storage and dispatch of supplies to the Balkans for the Movement. The centres received goods by air and road and dispatched up to 25,000 metric tonnes of aid per month.

During the upheaval in East Timor, logistics operations were backed simultaneously by Geneva and Nairobi and managed from Surabaya (Indonesia) and Darwin (Australia) with Australian Red Cross support. This enabled the ICRC to airlift and ship all the equipment it needed to start operating in Dili: trucks, vehicles, hospital supplies, food and non-food items (450 metric tonnes were dispatched the first week and two ships were hired to get the food pipeline going).

In Angola, the ICRC assisted 250,000 people with an airlift operation of 2,400 metric tonnes of food per month.

Coordination is a must

The growing number of organizations involved in relief operations makes coordination a matter of paramount importance. More and more operations are conducted within the framework of the Movement, and the number of National Societies contributing to ICRC activities, especially in the form of delegated projects, is on the rise. To lead such joint operations effectively requires harmonized logistical procedures and standardized equipment. Telephone and radio systems, for example, must all be compatible, reporting formulas must be streamlined and, most importantly, the quality of relief goods distributed must be guaranteed.

In 1999, the ICRC acted as the Movement's lead agency for operations in the former Yugoslavia. This meant it was in charge of coordinating all projects carried out by the Movement's components. Twenty participating National Societies were active in the region in addition to the local Red Cross.

Key figures for 1999

In 1999, the number of expatriate logisticians in the field increased from 40 to 140, backed up by approximately 2,000 local staff. For its operations the ICRC used a worldwide fleet of 3,000 trucks and other vehicles and 950 warehouses. The National Societies played an important part in stocking supplies - an estimated 50% of the effective field logistics. In addition, 115 planes and two to five ships were operational at any one time. The value of ICRC field and emergency stocks amounted on average to 60 million Swiss francs, and its purchases for 1999 were worth some 350 million Swiss francs. The organization also received about 59 million Swiss francs worth of supplies as gifts in kind.

Reviewing ICRC performance: monitoring and evaluation

Finding ways to improve ICRC performance in situations of conflict is a priority for all ICRC management and staff, especially when considering the needs of target populations (persons deprived of their freedom, internally displaced persons, refugees, women, children, separated family members, the missing, sick and wounded).

To ensure that planning is both relevant and effective, the ICRC makes certain that performance assessment tools such as monitoring and evaluation are an integral part of the management process. To this end, it established a Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation Unit in February 1999 whose purpose is to develop policies, guidelines, tools and systems to make sure the ICRC has an efficient and coordinated planning, monitoring and evaluation capacity.

For example, when setting annual objectives for 2000, each field delegation and headquarters division was requested to draw up an annual global performance assessment with respect to 1999 objectives. This included reporting on major results, areas where achievements failed to meet expectations, identification of unexpected results, unforeseen constraints, areas of innovation and lessons learned. This data will form the basis of a global institutional analysis.

Monitoring health and assistance programmes

The ICRC carried out ten internal monitoring missions to assess the implementation of various programmes covering primary health care, surgery, prosthetic/orthotic activities, relief, water, shelter, and health and assistance in prisons. The reviews targeted programmes in Afghanistan, Sudan, Sri Lanka, Angola, Iraq and the former Yugoslavia (including Kosovo).

In addition, the ICRC launched four evaluations in 1999 involving outside experts. The evaluations will examine 10 years of ICRC support to Cambodia's CNTS,* the ICRC's prosthetic/orthotic programmes in Zimbabwe and Afghanistan, ICRC support for veterinary vaccines production by the Afghan Agriculture Ministry, and the impact of ICRC projects aimed at improving the nutritional status of persons detained in the penitentiaries of Madagascar.

* CNTS: "Centre national de transfusion sanguine" (National Blood Bank)

OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Monitoring tracing activities

The ICRC was very attentive to the conclusions of an internal study on its activities for unaccompanied children in the Great Lakes region between 1994 and 1997. Overall, the study concluded that the ICRC had an internationally recognized role in the field of tracing with respect to unaccompanied children in emergencies and had made significant contributions in terms of re-establishing family links and reuniting families. The study ascertained, for example, that the ICRC had registered 65,500 of the total 131,500 unaccompanied children registered in the region, or approximately 50%, and that it had carried out 13,000 out of a total 57,000 family reunifications by all channels, or 23%. The ICRC's overall success in such activities may be largely attributed to the fact that it is present worldwide, and has the required network of trained personnel, logistics, infrastructure and means of communication. The study also, however, highlighted aspects calling for attention, such as the need for more explicitly formulated protection objectives; the need to reconcile differing interpretations among international organizations with respect to unaccompanied children (definition of "child" in terms of age and of "unaccompanied"); and the need to ensure that initial activities are field-oriented and decentralized with later residual caseloads being handled via centralized systems.

External reviews and evaluations

The ICRC also accords high priority to external reviews and evaluations of its performance. It was greatly encouraged by the positive findings of two teams of donor representatives who reviewed ICRC programmes in Colombia and Georgia in April and by a March visit to Guinea and Sierra Leone by Canada;¹ all three reviews also made constructive suggestions for improving ICRC performance.

The conclusions and recommendations resulting from externally sponsored formal evaluations were also given close scrutiny. For example, Denmark's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, specifically DANIDA,* evaluated Danish humanitarian assistance channelled through the UN, international NGOs and the ICRC from 1992 to 1998. Case studies examined assistance activities in Afghanistan, Angola, the Caucasus, the former Yugoslavia, the Great Lakes region and Sudan. Overall, DANIDA's findings with regard to the ICRC's humanitarian work were positive.

¹ The evaluations were conducted by government representatives dealing with refugee and migration matters, international humanitarian affairs and humanitarian aid, and international development. The review in Colombia was carried out by the Netherlands, Norway, Switzerland, the United States, and ECHO, and the evaluation in Georgia by Germany, Japan, Sweden and the United Kingdom.

* DANIDA: Danish International Development Assistance

OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES

The evaluation also made numerous recommendations of direct interest to the ICRC, including those which advocate that funding levels to humanitarian organizations such as the ICRC be maintained in recognition of their global responsibilities and core mandates; that donor partner selection be based on demonstrated core competencies with programmes and projects judged against objectives, not inputs; that efforts be intensified to promote international humanitarian law and a higher priority given to protection mandates; that humanitarian resources not become semi-permanent sources of welfare and social services that enable States, particularly those in conflict, to evade their responsibilities; and that ways be found to support local economic recovery via the use of local resources in protracted emergencies, thereby reducing the probability that continued aid will fuel continued conflict.

The vital connection to cooperation activities

In the light of the above findings, the ICRC's cooperation activities with National Societies remained vitally important. The ICRC continued to emphasize a structured planning process for the activities it supports, with the accent on results over the long term. It thus encouraged National Societies to implement more systematic review and monitoring systems. Indeed, a new model agreement for cooperation with National Societies makes explicit reference to the planning of mid-term reviews, evaluations and audits.

In 1999, the ICRC's Cooperation unit carried out assessment missions in Algeria, and, prior to initiating cooperation programmes, a review of activities with the Afghan Red Crescent, with which the organization has a close and long-standing association. Both reviews highlighted the positive contributions and the capacities of the National Societies, which mobilize significant staff resources and/or membership volunteers and provide a broad range of health, relief and social welfare services. The potential for greater cooperation with the ICRC was also identified, in particular the opportunities to further engage a broad range of ethnic groups and more effectively reach women and children, especially those traumatized by violence.

Evaluating the Movement's response to the Balkans crisis

Last but not least, a major initiative of the Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation Unit was the launch in September 1999 of an external evaluation of the first phase of the Movement's response to the Balkans crisis. The evaluation will build on the close cooperation between the ICRC, the International Federation and participating National Societies. It will underscore results, effectiveness and efficiency, and is scheduled to be completed in early 2000. It will be unique in that it will also highlight beneficiary feedback (i.e., the recipients, host families).

Cooperation with National Societies in the field

ICRC activities to provide assistance to the victims of conflict are carried out in close cooperation with the National Societies whenever the latter's network, structure and capacity permit. In 1999, the ICRC thus involved in its operations throughout the world over 40 National Societies conducting activities in their respective countries, in addition to making specific efforts to build National Society capacity.² About 35 National Societies from third countries³ wishing to participate directly in the Movement's international work for the victims of conflict worldwide were also associated in ICRC operations. Operational cooperation took on many forms, as illustrated below.

Working together in emergency situations

In Mexico, the Mexican Red Cross worked closely with the ICRC in Chiapas, where Mexican Red Cross doctors, nurses and health officers gave consultations to the local population in health posts to which the ICRC provided material and financial assistance. The ICRC and the Mexican Red Cross jointly travelled to many remote villages which did not have easy access to or refused government health services, and carried out joint vaccination campaigns. The Mexican Red Cross also helped distribute food and medical supplies to the people affected by the situation in Chiapas. Other National Societies, namely the Spanish and the German Red Cross, were also involved in this operation and worked closely with the ICRC in support of the Mexican Red Cross.

In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, National Society volunteers continued to take part in ICRC assistance activities. Hundreds of volunteers were trained by the Red Cross of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the ICRC to distribute relief supplies and do tracing work, mainly in the eastern part of the country. Emergency-preparedness workshops were organized in Kivu province, and first-aid equipment and material were given to local branches, enabling the National Society to act during outbursts of violence. The work of the National Society was praised on various occasions by the local population and in the press, heightening its visibility.

Thanks to its joint endeavours with the National Society, the ICRC was able to expand its tracing services, establishing 45 tracing offices in areas often off-limits to it. The volunteers at those offices collected and delivered Red Cross messages and located unaccompanied children. In Kinshasa, the ICRC provided routine infrastructure support for the National Society's dissemination, tracing and emergency-preparedness activities, and contributed to a project to clean and disinfect 16 hospitals, a task involving more than 2,000 volunteers.

² See p. 379.

³ Referred to as participating National Societies.

An innovative approach based on the Seville Agreement

In Albania, as in the other countries affected by the Balkans crisis, implementation of the Seville Agreement took on a new dimension as all the Movement's components responded to the crisis. The Albanian Red Cross played a crucial role as a fully operational partner, and some two thousand volunteers and staff were involved in relief operations, tracing activities and dissemination programmes such as the mine-awareness campaign launched in northern Albania. The Albanian Red Cross participated in the daily Red Cross/Red Crescent coordination meetings attended by the ICRC, the Federation and the National Societies of Italy, the United Arab Emirates, Finland and France. It was also represented at the UN coordination meetings and, together with the Movement's lead agency in Albania, the Federation, liaised with the provincial authorities. In order to back the efforts of its weaker branches, in particular in northern Albania, the Albanian Red Cross national headquarters posted two senior national staff permanently to Kukës. These liaison officers were instrumental in promoting the smooth implementation of the Seville Agreement and efficient coordination of the activities of the Movement's various components. They were also of great assistance to the ICRC in the more remote and insecure areas of northern Albania.

Red Cross and Red Crescent response to the crisis in Kosovo was both prompt and wideranging. At the end of the year, 20 participating National Societies were working on 18 delegated projects and 17 bilateral projects in Kosovo. Programmes included the running of soup kitchens, the rehabilitation and management of health facilities, the renovation of schools, the repair of tractors and distribution of seeds, the rebuilding of houses and the distribution of stoves and fuel. More than half of the projects delegated to National Societies benefited victims of conflict in the Balkans as did nearly all the bilateral projects (31 out of a total of 34).⁴

A wide array of services

The ICRC and the Somali Red Crescent Society joined forces to take effective action in response to the needs of people affected by the volatile situation reigning in Somalia for some years. The National Society, with ICRC support, was particularly active on the medical front, treating war-wounded patients from all over the country at Keysaney Hospital in Mogadishu, providing services at fourteen other medical facilities, and dispensing oral rehydration salts at four sites in South Mogadishu at the peak of a cholera outbreak. Joint cholera prevention programmes were started at the end of 1999. The Somali Red Crescent network of branches and offices continued to provide tracing services for people throughout Somalia. In these two areas of cooperation (medical and tracing), regular training sessions and coordination meetings were organized jointly by the ICRC and National Society staff. In addition, Somalia was one of the countries polled by the ICRC for the 1999 "People on War" campaign, and the National Society played a key role in activities related thereto.

⁴ See also pp. 255-256.

Humanitarian diplomacy

In addition to working in the theatres of armed conflict, the ICRC seeks to take preventive action whenever possible to safeguard the victims of international and non-international armed conflicts and of internal violence. Preventive action may consist in taking diplomatic initiatives aimed at establishing a constructive dialogue with the players present in the international arena, in spreading knowledge of humanitarian law and promoting its development, or in advocating the ICRC position on issues of humanitarian concern.

The ICRC maintains close relations with governments, international organizations, NGOs and the National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. It has set up a network for humanitarian diplomacy covering practically all countries, including those not directly affected by armed conflict. The network functions thanks to effective cooperation between ICRC regional delegations and offices around the world and its headquarters in Geneva.

The regional delegations have specific tasks with regard to operational activities on the one hand and humanitarian diplomacy on the other. In the sphere of humanitarian diplomacy, the regional delegations play a major role, particularly in establishing and maintaining regular contacts with governments and regional organizations. They are also in a privileged position for sustained dialogue with National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

For routine contact with the United Nations and multilateral and regional organizations around the world, the ICRC relies on its delegations in New York, Brussels, Paris, Cairo and Addis Ababa, which act as multilateral liaison offices.

OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Humanitarian coordination faces new challenges

Today's humanitarian activities take place in a context of daunting challenge. This is to a large extent the result of broader developments in the international arena, such as the spread of globalization, the development of new types of armed conflict, namely ethnic conflicts, "destructured" conflicts and conflicts fuelled by private interests, and the emergence of new protagonists, in particular non-State players such as mercenaries and private security forces and armed groups.

In these contexts, humanitarian rules protecting persons not or no longer taking part in the hostilities are often ignored or deliberately flouted. This represents an enormous challenge to humanitarian work and poses a growing threat to the security of humanitarian personnel.

At the same time, the number of humanitarian actors in the field has risen sharply, not always for the benefit of the victims. In fact, humanitarian work in some contexts has been characterized by overlapping, insufficient coordination and the ill-defined mandates of the agencies involved. Also, multilateral and, in recent years, regional peacekeeping operations have become more numerous, complex and diverse. They encompass not only military but also political and humanitarian aspects. Since they are inherently political, these operations often undermine the ICRC's humanitarian action and its underlying principles of impartiality, neutrality and independence.

The ICRC cannot be expected to cope with these challenges on its own. In 1999, it worked with a wide range of international, regional and non-governmental organizations. Improved compliance with international humanitarian law and the preservation of its unique status as an impartial, neutral and independent humanitarian organization remained the focus of the ICRC's humanitarian diplomacy. At the same time, it endeavoured to meet the need for coordination with other humanitarian and political players and to secure overall support for humanitarian action.

Harmonizing and improving humanitarian response

If their efforts on behalf of victims of armed conflict are to be as effective as possible, humanitarian practitioners must harmonize their responses. The ICRC therefore continued to support initiatives intended to improve consultation and coordination mechanisms among them.

On the multilateral level, the ICRC closely followed the work of the IASC,* the UN mechanism for coordination of humanitarian emergency response, which is chaired by OCHA* and is made up of UN agencies with humanitarian mandates, the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, NGO consortia and the World Bank. In 1999, the ICRC participated in various IASC reference groups on operational and other matters, such as those on Humanitarian Action and Human Rights and on Post-Conflict Reintegration. It maintained close relations with the Humanitarian Liaison Working Group in both Geneva and New York, and continued to make a substantial contribution to UN efforts for efficient inter-agency coordination in the field.

* IASC: Inter-Agency Steering Committee

* OCHA: UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs

OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES

On the bilateral level, the ICRC fostered dialogue with key UN operational agencies with humanitarian mandates. In 1999, it held high-level meetings and consultations notably with UNHCR,* the WFP,* UNICEF,* FAO* and UNHCHR.*

The ICRC also actively pursued its exchanges with NGOs. One initiative of note was the holding of the third protection workshop for human rights and humanitarian organizations, the aim of which is to establish a common ethical frame of reference for protection work.

The ICRC also took an active part in NGO fora on various topics and continued its bilateral contacts with major NGOs working in the field. It paid particular attention to its relationship with the Steering Committee for Humanitarian Response, with a view to forging closer links in the future.

In the field, the ICRC continued to observe initiatives to formulate operational guidelines in different contexts, in particular in Africa. It also promoted, as in the past, the Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and NGOs in Disaster Relief, which had been endorsed by 196 NGOs by the end of 1999.

In May 1999, the ICRC convened the third annual Humanitarian Forum in Wolfsberg, Switzerland, on the theme of protection of the victims of armed conflicts.⁵ The Forum was attended by high-level representatives of donor governments, key UN humanitarian, political and economic agencies, other international organizations and NGOs.

* UNHCR: United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

* WFP: World Food Programme

* UNICEF: UN Children's Fund

* FAO: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

* UNHCR: Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights

⁵ See p. 405.

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International fora: humanitarian issues on the agenda

The ICRC continued its efforts to raise awareness of humanitarian issues in international fora. While taking due account of the respective spheres of competence of political and humanitarian players, it endeavoured to promote mutual understanding of objectives and working methods, and thus to develop complementarity.

The year under review was marked by better understanding of the ICRC's specific mandate, the ICRC's growing participation in the work of intergovernmental organizations and the further incorporation of humanitarian considerations in political and military decision-making processes.

In fact, humanitarian issues occupied a prominent place on the 1999 agendas of political bodies such as the UN Security Council, the OAU,* the OAS,* the OIC,* the OSCE* and the Non-Aligned Movement. This is clearly reflected in the increasing openness and interest displayed by these organizations - with which the ICRC maintained regular contact - in direct interaction with humanitarian agencies. In November 1999, the ICRC signed a memorandum of understanding with the League of Arab States.

The ICRC has permanent observer status at the UN, and as such took part in debates on topics within its sphere of interest at the General Assembly and its committees. It closely followed the adoption of numerous resolutions expressing support for international humanitarian law and humanitarian activities.

The ICRC regularly followed up on the work of the UN Security Council, the UN Commission on Human Rights and the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities with regard to the humanitarian implications of all the crises and contexts of concern to the ICRC. It started to work with UNMAS,* particularly on the preparation of mine assessment missions, and the Inter-Agency Steering Committee on Mine Action.

* OAU: Organization of African Unity

* OAS: Organization of American States

* OIC: Organization of the Islamic Conference

* OSCE: Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe

* UNMAS: UN Mine Action Service

OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES

In 1999, the ICRC maintained regular working relations with the UN Department for Legal Affairs on a wide range of legal issues, such as the completion and adoption of the Bulletin on Observance by UN Forces of International Humanitarian Law, applicable since 12 August 1999, the promotion of the campaign to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Geneva Conventions, and the preparation of the first conference of States party to the Ottawa treaty banning the use of anti-personnel mines. The ICRC was actively involved in the preparation, meeting and follow-up of the first and second sessions of the Preparatory Commission for the Establishment of an International Criminal Court. It also participated as an observer in the negotiations on the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism (drafted and adopted in 1999). The ICRC took part in these fora as an expert, in line with its internationally recognized mandate as the promoter and guardian of international humanitarian law.

In view of the pressing need to bridge the gap between emergency assistance, rehabilitation, reconstruction and development, the ICRC continued to strengthen its dialogue with development-oriented organizations such as UNDP* and the World Bank.

In the context of regional organizations, the ICRC developed constructive dialogue with the OAU and close links with several sub-regional organizations on the African continent, including ECOWAS,* the Intergovernmental Authority on Development and the Southern African Development Community. The ICRC also endeavoured to develop closer relations with regional organizations dealing with security matters, such as the OSCE, NATO* and the Western European Union.

It has become an essential dimension of the ICRC's work to promote international humanitarian law and ensure its effective implementation. Throughout 1999, the ICRC therefore continued to cooperate with the legislative authorities of a large number of countries. It took part in IPU* conferences and in regional parliamentary associations, drawing the attention of parliamentarians - who play a key role in the ratification process - to humanitarian issues and the practical implementation of humanitarian law instruments under domestic legislation. In close cooperation with parliamentarians and the IPU, the ICRC published a handbook for parliamentarians on humanitarian law, entitled Respect for International Humanitarian Law.

* UNDP: United Nations Development Programme

* ECOWAS: Economic Community of West African States

* NATO: North Atlantic Treaty Organization

* IPU: Inter-Parliamentary Union



War leaves countless men, women and children bereft and alone, far from their homes and families. The ICRC seeks to alleviate their suffering.

West Africa

ICRC delegations:

Liberia, Sierra Leone

ICRC regional delegations:

Abidjan, Dakar, Lagos

Central Africa

ICRC delegations:

Burundi, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Republic of the Congo, Rwanda

ICRC regional delegation:

Yaoundé

Southern Africa

ICRC delegation:

Angola

ICRC regional delegations:

Harare, Pretoria

East Africa

ICRC delegations:

Eritrea, Ethiopia, Somalia, Sudan, Uganda

ICRC regional delegation:

Nairobi

Staff

ICRC expatriates¹: 358

National Societies¹: 95

Local employees²: 3,093

Total expenditure:

Sfr 263,837,912.77

Expenditure breakdown

Protection: 31,871,871.79

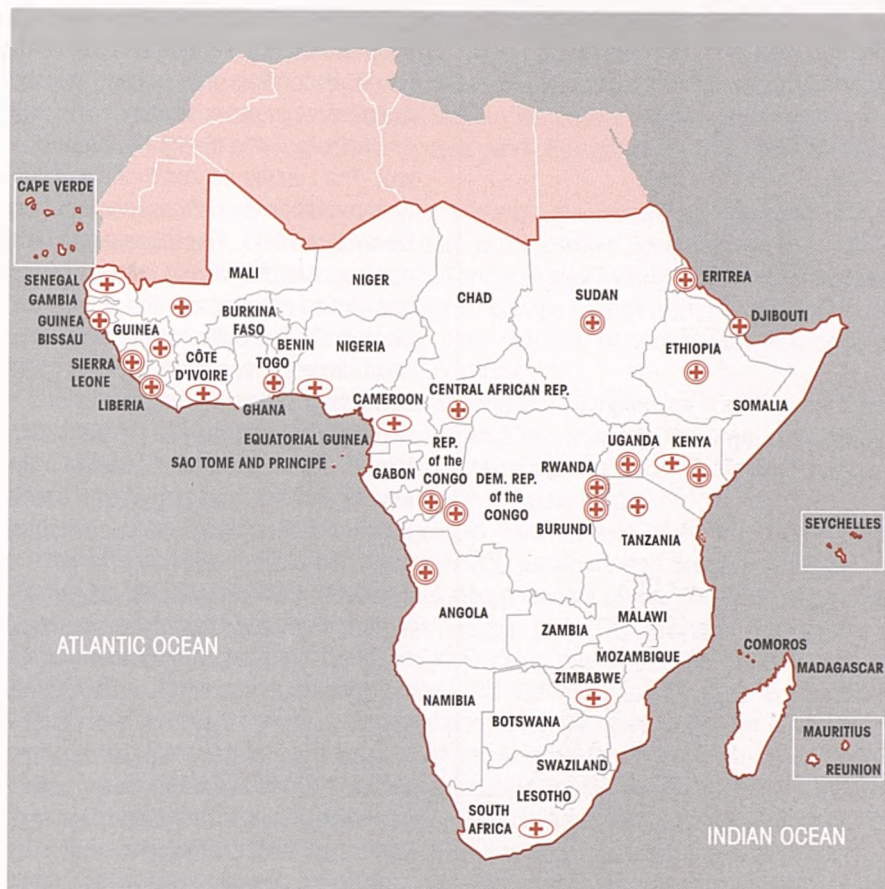
Assistance: 173,919,980.62

Preventive action: 13,437,544.86

Cooperation with National Societies:
9,612,745.75

Overheads: 15,256,928.00

General: 19,738,841.75



⊕ ICRC regional delegation ⊕ ICRC delegation ⊕ ICRC mission or other presence

ICRC / A/12.99

¹ Average figures calculated on an annual basis.

² Under ICRC contract, as at December 1999.

Hopes that the dawn of a new millennium would bring brighter prospects for the countries of Africa were disappointed as the continent continued to be plagued by a range of conflicts that caused widespread suffering, mass displacements and the progressive impoverishment of its people.

Angola, once thought to be on the road to peace, sank back into a state of civil war. The Lusaka accord that was intended to end the 20-year conflict in 1994 finally and definitively collapsed when fresh fighting broke out on the Central Planalto in December 1998. The international conflict between Ethiopia and Eritrea, believed to have caused the deaths of tens of thousands of soldiers on both sides of the front line, defied all efforts to find a solution. Clashes continued throughout the year in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, in a situation made more complex by the plethora of armed forces, factions and groups involved in the fighting. Particularly brutal conflicts traumatized the populations in Sierra Leone and the Republic of the Congo.

On other fronts, even if the situation was no worse, there was little cause for optimism. The slow-burning conflict in Sudan reached an impasse, with sporadic military operations taking place in the south and east of the country. The south of Somalia remained mired in insecurity and interfactional fighting, although in the north, Somaliland appeared to have achieved a degree of stability, and the establishment of a new geopolitical entity, Puntland, brought a measure of calm to the region. Niger and Côte d'Ivoire were rocked by coups d'états, although thankfully they occurred with little or no bloodshed. Elsewhere, tensions and social unrest persisted.

Intensive negotiations with the support and participation of a number of African countries led to the signature of peace agreements in July in Lomé, Togo, with a view to ending the civil war in Sierra Leone, and in Lusaka, Zambia, in the context of the war in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. On both occasions, the ICRC had the opportunity to put humanitarian law on the agenda and to ensure that humanitarian concerns, such as the release of prisoners and access by humanitarian organizations to the victims, were taken into account. Implementation of the accords' provisions, however, especially with regard to issues such as demobilization, took a while to get off the ground. Towards the end of the year, talks also began between the Senegalese government and the Casamance separatist movement and between the parties to the conflict in the Republic of the Congo.

The 11-month civil war in Guinea-Bissau ended in May, when the military junta took power and the President left the country. The first round of presidential and legislative elections took place in November. Other positive developments, resulting from democratic elections, included the restoration of a civilian government in Nigeria and the smooth handover of the presidency in South Africa.

The most immediate and palpable effects of the conflicts were felt first and foremost by civilians. Extreme violence characterized the hostilities in Sierra Leone and the Republic of the Congo. In January, thousands of people were killed or mutilated during the rebel advance on the Sierra Leonean capital, Freetown. In the Republic of the Congo, the second half of the year saw streams of half-starved and traumatized people emerging from the forests, to which they had fled to escape the terror sown by marauding militias. In these and other contexts, the wanton and predatory behaviour of the combatants, who resorted to acts of unspeakable cruelty, rape and the systematic looting of homes and infrastructure, was at the root of much of the suffering.

In Angola, 300,000 to 400,000 displaced people swelled the populations of the main towns under government control. An unknown number of people in the Democratic Republic of the Congo -- probably in the hundreds of thousands -- were uprooted across the country. In Guinea-Bissau, the capital was emptied twice of its population in 1999, although civilians were generally spared the worst effects of the fighting.

In many countries, notably Angola, Burundi, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Sierra Leone, Somalia and Sudan, a progressive economic decline, combined with the effects of prolonged conflict and rampant looting by combatants, had brought public administration to the point of collapse, destroyed infrastructure and disrupted vital supply lines. Thousands, if not millions, of people were thus caught in a seemingly endless cycle of poverty and despair.

It is little wonder, then, that the African continent occupied the lion's share of the ICRC's 1999 budget and saw the heaviest staff involvement. The organization had 21 delegations in Africa in 1999: 12 operational delegations, 7 regional delegations, and missions in Kivu and to the OAU* in Addis Ababa.

In addition to the 120,000 detainees in Rwanda held in connection with the 1994 genocide, the ICRC visited some 28,000 prisoners and security detainees in 18 African countries in 1999. These included prisoners of war (POWs) held in the contexts of the fighting in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and on the Ethiopian side in the Ethiopian-Eritrean conflict. Eritrea being one of the few countries not to have signed the Geneva Conventions, the ICRC was not granted access to Ethiopian POWs held in Eritrea. The ICRC President addressed the issue during an official visit to Asmara; the Eritrean government then made a pledge at the 27th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent in Geneva to sign the Geneva Conventions. The ICRC also visited some 1,350 civilian internees in Ethiopia and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. In 1999 it was granted access to detainees for the first time in the Republic of the Congo, in Burundi following the renewal of its activities in the country, in Namibia in connection with the conflict in the Coprivi Strip, in Cameroon, in Equatorial Guinea and in Guinea-Bissau.

Besides visits to detainees, the ICRC was able to carry out a wide array of humanitarian activities in 1999. Needs were such that it mounted large-scale relief operations (food and medical assistance) in Angola and the Democratic Republic of the Congo and expanded its field activities in Somalia. In northern Mali, the ICRC drew to a close its programmes to develop the health care system and to improve the water supply for rural communities, after a three-year implementation phase.

For the most part, the ICRC maintained good relations with the authorities and all the warring parties and encountered few political obstacles in the accomplishment of its mandate. The main exception was Sierra Leone, from which the ICRC was requested to leave in January, to return only in May. The organization was able to relaunch its activities in Burundi after a three-year hiatus, focusing mainly on people deprived of their freedom. The more stable situation in Rwanda made it possible for the ICRC to operate in areas of the country previously off-limits for security reasons. Similarly, the ICRC was once again able to carry out activities in south-west-

* OAU: Organization of African Unity

ern Uganda, from which it had withdrawn in December 1998 in the absence of security guarantees.

Security, it must be said, remained a major concern, and although acceptance of the ICRC's work and mandate was generally good throughout Africa, the organization found that its room for manoeuvre was sometimes limited by the need to avoid exposing staff to unnecessary risks. Movements were restricted, for example, outside urban areas in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Republic of the Congo and Burundi. In Somalia, no permanent structures such as offices or residences were established.

This made the ICRC's cooperation with the individual National Societies of paramount importance. Their intimate knowledge of the terrain and greater freedom of movement in certain contexts meant that they could often reach areas off-limits to the ICRC. For its part, the ICRC contributed to the development of National Societies' emergency preparedness and tracing and dissemination activities by providing financial and technical support, training staff and donating vehicles, furniture and equipment. The ICRC also worked closely with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in those contexts where the Federation was engaged in the institutional development of the National Society.

The regional delegations in Africa were once again of great service. In addition to their traditional activities to promote the dissemination and national implementation of humanitarian law in the countries they cover, most of the regional delegations found themselves active in operational contexts. From Abidjan and Lagos, the ICRC coordinated the Movement's activities and support to the National Society during the ICRC's five-month absence from Sierra Leone. The regional delegation in Dakar was able to intervene rapidly during the hostilities in Guinea-Bissau. From Pretoria, the ICRC closely followed the crisis in the Comoros. Delegates based in Harare visited POWs held in connection with the conflict in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and took action when fighting broke out in Namibia's Caprivi Strip. The Nairobi delegation, with its logistics centre, continued to play its special role of support to the operational delegations not only in neighbouring countries, but as far afield as Kosovo and East Timor.

WEST AFRICA LIBERIA

LIBERIA



ICRC delegation

uneasy peace

attacks in the north-west

Two years after his election, Liberia's President and his NPP* party were still grappling with the political and economic difficulties that had beset the country since its emergence from a seven-year civil war in 1997. Tensions persisted, especially in the border counties of Lofa, Nimba and Grand Gedeh. Numerous human rights violations continued to be reported, a situation not helped by the proliferation of paramilitary groups. The economy remained in disarray. Investors stayed away, deterred by the country's political instability and human rights record.

Opposition to the government was mainly organized from abroad, with armed factions making periodic cross-border incursions, allegedly from rear bases in Guinea. Trouble in the region was also attributed to returning Liberian soldiers who had fought alongside rebels of the Revolutionary United Front in Sierra Leone's civil war. Clashes took place in April and again in August in Lofa county in north-western Liberia, leading to the displacement of thousands of people. Homes and warehouses containing humanitarian aid stocks were systematically looted. Hostages taken in August, including a few expatriate aid workers, were later released in Guinea.

* NPP: National Patriotic Party

destruction of weapons

*Sierra Leonean refugees
still present in large numbers*

*programmes for detainees
expanded*

*progress in humanitarian law
teaching*

Relations between Liberia and Guinea deteriorated as a result of attacks on both sides of the border, including in September by Liberian armed groups on three Guinean villages. An extraordinary summit organized by ECOWAS* in Abuja, Nigeria, on 16 September helped to ease the situation, and Liberia, Sierra Leone and Guinea agreed to cooperate to secure their mutual frontiers and to furnish each other with lists of dissidents with a view to their expulsion within the framework of the revived Mano River Union.³

In October the government announced that the disarmament process had been officially completed. Weapons and ammunition belonging to 21,000 combatants were destroyed in Tubmanburg on 18 October in the presence of the Liberian Ministers of Foreign Affairs, Defense and Education, members of the diplomatic community, the UN Secretary-General and representatives of the ICRC and the Federation. Five days later the last ECOMOG* troops withdrew from Liberia, after a nine-year presence in the country.

In another positive development, many formerly displaced people returned to work on the land. The government launched a countrywide agricultural programme, but at the end of the year the promised seeds and tools had yet to materialize.

Some 35,000 refugees from the civil war in neighbouring Sierra Leone remained in five camps, one of which was located between the capital and the border and the others in the suburbs of Monrovia. Following the clashes in Lofa county in August, about 10,000 of the refugees were relocated to Sinje camp. The ICRC, together with the Liberian National Red Cross, paid monthly visits to these camps to assess the situation and promote the exchange of Red Cross messages.

The ICRC carried on its visits to security detainees, including those sentenced for their alleged part in the attempted coup d'état of September 1998 and held in Monrovia's central prison, and others still awaiting trial at the Barclay Training Center. Written authorization was received from the Ministries of Justice and Defence to visit all places of detention under their jurisdiction. These included places of detention run by the army, to which the ICRC had not previously had access other than on an occasional basis. The ICRC also received the necessary clearances to visit detainees held in police stations.

Seven years of war had left the Liberian prison administration stripped of technical and financial resources. The ICRC therefore launched a programme to restore kitchen and sanitary facilities and to carry out other minor repairs to infrastructure in eight Liberian prisons, three of them in Monrovia and five in rural areas. Monthly food distributions were carried out to the detainees' families to enable them to take food to their detained relatives.

Humanitarian law and the ICRC's mandate formed an integral part of training at the Police Academy, and courses benefited from regular ICRC participation. The army, which was in the process of being restructured, incorporated the basics of humanitarian law in its new training programme. A one-week course for future instructors of the armed, police and security forces, organized by the ICRC in March in cooperation with the Liberian Red Cross, provided representatives of these different services

* ECOWAS: Economic Community of West African States

³ Mano River Union: a customs and economic union established in 1973 between Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone.

* ECOMOG: Economic Community of West African States Monitoring Group

*humanitarian issues
given centre stage*

with their first opportunity to meet officially. A nine-member committee was formed to work with the National Society and the ICRC in developing future programmes. Together with the Ministry of Defence, the ICRC developed a teaching module on humanitarian law, the ICRC's mandate and the National Society's role for military instructors giving courses on "military tactics" for male university students and secondary school pupils.

Liberia ratified the Ottawa landmines treaty on 23 December.

Emphasis was placed on promoting humanitarian values among both the general public and arms bearers and on creating an environment conducive to humanitarian activities. The ICRC chose 15 March, the Liberian national day, to launch activities related to the 50th anniversary of the Geneva Conventions. A concert featuring the South African singer Lucky Dube took place in Monrovia before an audience of tens of thousands. In addition, weekly concerts featuring music, dance and sketches were held in various urban and rural communities with the participation of local musicians and entertainers, stressing the importance of humanitarian values and highlighting health and hygiene issues.

In August, a statue depicting seven life-size combatants with arms outstretched towards a volume of the Geneva Conventions was unveiled by the ICRC on Monrovia's main street. Ministers and other representatives of the government and of civil society attended the ceremony, which included performances of local dances and scenes portraying violations of humanitarian law.



IN 1999 THE ICRC:

- visited 34 detainees in 6 places of detention, including those detained in connection with the 1998 attempted coup d'état; visits to detention centres in rural areas were conducted with the National Society;
- during visits to places of detention, distributed food (provided by the WFP*), clothing, bedding, recreational items and hygiene products to the inmates;
- employed the services of a local nurse to carry out regular medical visits to detention centres and dispense medicines as necessary; transferred serious medical cases to a referral hospital;
- carried out structural repair work to improve the water supply and sanitation system in 7 prisons;

* WFP: World Food Programme

WEST AFRICA LIBERIA



- in conjunction with the Liberian Red Cross, exchanged 2,858 Red Cross messages, mainly on behalf of Sierra Leonean refugees, some of them unaccompanied children trying to locate their parents;



- through the Liberian Red Cross, distributed food and material assistance (including cooking pots, tarpaulins and blankets) to people displaced by the clashes in Lofa county in July and August;



- sank 3 wells and repaired 20 hand pumps in Monrovia and up-country, and repaired or maintained existing installations/facilities;



- provided support for the National Society's tracing and dissemination programmes;
- reactivated 3 Liberian Red Cross branches in Voinjama, Gbarnga and Zwedru, areas to which the ICRC did not have easy access, and provided them with financial, food and medical assistance to enable them to help the victims of clashes;
- provided support for the activities of Liberian Red Cross volunteers, such as the cleaning of market places, water points and wells;
- defrayed the running costs of 2 Liberian Red Cross clinics treating patients in remote areas (Dolo's Town and Gbarnga) where the local population had limited access to medical care, and supplied them with basic drugs and dressings; financially supported 3 National Society health posts in camps for displaced people and refugee centres;



- conducted sessions on humanitarian law for members of the police, armed and security forces;
- gave regular courses on humanitarian law to prison officers, and distributed publications on the ICRC's mandate and first-aid kits to detainees;
- organized a seminar for 26 members of the Liberian press corps in January to enhance the media's understanding of humanitarian law and Red Cross activities, and regularly provided related articles for publication in daily newspapers and programmes for radio broadcast.

WEST AFRICA SIERRA LEONE

SIERRA LEONE



ICRC delegation
 ICRC sub-delegation
 - - - - Province Boundary
 - - - - District Boundary

fighting continues into January

peace agreement reached in Lomé

The beginning of the year saw no let-up in the fighting between rebel forces and government troops, which had taken a turn for the worse in December 1998.⁴ Following skirmishes in the hills around the capital, the AFRC*/RUF* forces entered Freetown in the first week of January. The ensuing street battles, with ECOMOG attempting to defend its positions in the capital from the advancing rebels, left at least 5,000 dead and many more wounded, the majority civilians. After weeks of heavy fighting, the rebels were driven back to the countryside, where they continued to hold out for several months against the joint ECOMOG/CDF* forces.

A cease-fire in May brought the fighting to a halt, and on 7 July a peace agreement was signed after six weeks of talks in Lomé, Togo, involving members of the Sierra Leone government and the RUF, representatives of the governments of Sierra Leone's neighbours and the UN. The accord provided "inter alia" for the disarmament and demobilization of the various armed groups and their integration into a new,

⁴ See the ICRC's 1998 Annual Report, pp. 45-50.

* AFRC: Armed Forces Revolutionary Council

* RUF: Revolutionary United Front

* CDF: Civil Defence Forces

restructured army, amnesty for all former combatants and collaborators, elections within two years, the transformation of the ECOMOG mandate into peace-keeping and protection, and the establishment of a Truth and Reconciliation Commission. The issue of impunity was a subject of some controversy, given the many and horrific atrocities that had been committed in the context of the conflict, but it was later specified that the amnesty did not cover perpetrators of war crimes.

The rebels remained in control of about half of Sierra Leone's territory. The RUF leader, Foday Sankoh, who had been sentenced to death for treason in 1998 but pardoned as part of the accord, and AFRC leader Johnny Paul Koroma arrived back in Freetown in October, with the stated intention of beginning the disarmament and demobilization of their respective forces. Both leaders conducted tours of the bush to exhort their followers to abide by the peace agreement. Their efforts did little to limit violations of the peace agreement by some of their forces who, feeling sidelined, openly opposed the accord. In addition to battles between RUF and AFRC forces for control of the town of Makeni, there were numerous accounts of harassment of civilians and human rights violations, ambushes of commercial and humanitarian convoys and further population displacements.

The UN Security Council adopted a resolution in October creating UNAMSIL,* a 6,000-strong peace-keeping force of observers and soldiers, for an initial period of six months. Troops began to arrive as of mid-November. As a step forward in cementing the peace process, in November the RUF was registered as a political party whose members could stand in future elections.

Progress in implementing the peace agreement was painfully slow. Of the estimated 45,000 combatants, little more than 10,500 had handed in their weapons by 15 December, the deadline set for the completion of the disarmament process. Apart from informal releases, prisoners in the hands of the various parties remained in captivity. The return and resettlement of many of the refugees and displaced people, which were conditional on the disarmament and demobilization process, had barely begun.

Between January and the signing of the cease-fire, attacks and clashes mainly in the eastern and northern parts of the country prompted large population movements. Some 300,000 displaced people gathered in 22 camps in Freetown, Waterloo, Kambia, Yele, Bo and Kenema. Those outside the capital rarely received any form of assistance.

Even after the cease-fire, large tracts of the country, particularly in Kono, Koinadugu and Kailahun in northern and eastern Sierra Leone, remained inaccessible to humanitarian organizations. Freedom of movement, which the peace agreement was expected to facilitate, was still limited. While access was possible to areas under government control, humanitarian agencies were reluctant to extend their activities to areas controlled by the RUF and AFRC for want of security guarantees and the ability to operate independently.

The intensity of the fighting in early January obliged the ICRC to reduce the number of expatriate staff in Freetown to a strict minimum of five, including a surgeon and an anaesthetist. A week later, on 13 January, the remaining expatriates were expelled by the Sierra Leonean government on the unfounded accusation that the ICRC had

peace plan inches forward

*security situation limits access
to thousands of displaced*

ICRC expelled from Freetown

* UNAMSIL: United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone

assisted the rebels. An ICRC-chartered helicopter evacuated them to the Guinean capital, Conakry. Before its departure, the ICRC talked with or forwarded messages to representatives of all the parties to the conflict, including countries contributing to ECOMOG forces, and reminded them of their obligation to abide by the rules of humanitarian law. It also issued a press release on 22 January, formally rejecting the accusations made against it and drawing attention to the detention by ECOMOG of six of its local staff members. These were released the following day.

The ICRC's absence, and indeed that of most other humanitarian agencies, and the inaccessibility of large parts of the country made it impossible to get an accurate picture of the plight of the civilian population or to respond to its needs. The ICRC nonetheless continued to act as lead agency for the Movement's emergency activities in Sierra Leone from outside the country, including the coordination of financial and in-kind contributions from participating National Societies. In particular, it provided support to the Sierra Leone Red Cross Society, which was the only component of the Movement operating within the country.

The Sierra Leone Red Cross had suffered badly during the fighting and its capacity was almost totally wiped out. Nevertheless, the National Society continued to see to the medical needs of the wounded and to assist displaced people. It ran three health centres in Freetown -- in the National Stadium, Howe Street and Bailor Barrie's Compound -- with a staff of six nurses and 50 volunteers, and two teams of 17 first-aid workers assisted the medical staff of Connaught Hospital, at which a blood bank was also operational. Having established that its substantial non-food stocks in Freetown had remained intact, the ICRC put them at the National Society's disposal to distribute to displaced people sheltering in Bailor Barrie's Compound.

In the meantime, the ICRC took all possible steps to resume its activities in Sierra Leone. These included written representations and meetings in various capitals with, among others, Sierra Leonean government officials, ECOWAS and ECOMOG representatives and the UN Special Envoy. On two consecutive missions to Freetown in April, the Delegate General for Africa met the Sierra Leonean President and the Commander-in-Chief of the ECOMOG forces, as well as other high-level military and government officials. The authorities subsequently publicly retracted all the accusations made against the ICRC earlier in the year. This paved the way for the ICRC and the Federation to return to Sierra Leone on 17 May to resume aid programmes for the victims of the conflict.

Under the terms of the Lomé peace accord, the parties undertook to make arrangements for the immediate and unconditional release of all prisoners and civilians abducted during the conflict. A "committee for the release of prisoners of war and non-combatants" was set up, with the ICRC acting in an advisory capacity. During the peace negotiations in Lomé, the ICRC submitted a position paper to the parties and the UN, setting out its role in the event of any releases and its standard procedures in such circumstances. Despite this, the handful of releases that took place before the end of the year were carried out randomly and without ICRC involvement.

During the attack on Freetown, some prisoners escaped. The ICRC provided assistance to former detainees it had previously visited and registered and who presented themselves at the delegation. The ICRC also participated in the early stages of the demobilization process by providing material assistance and plastic sheeting to

National Society active throughout

return to Sierra Leone

*release of detainees
not accomplished as planned*

*Red Cross message network
developed and expanded*

restoring self-sufficiency

changing medical needs

the NCDDR* to give out to combatants who handed in their weapons, as the authorities lacked the means to do so themselves. The NCDDR, UNAMSIL and a number of NGOs subsequently took over this task.

To enable displaced and dispersed families to keep in touch with relatives, the Red Cross message network was revived in 12 camps in Freetown in May and June and progressively extended to include previously inaccessible regions. Volunteers from the Sierra Leone Red Cross were trained and equipped, and awareness campaigns conducted in all sites where displaced people had gathered, in hospitals and clinics, in interim care centres for abducted children, and in schools and institutions. A radio programme on the Red Cross message network was aired on national radio.

Early assessments by the ICRC and the National Society in Freetown revealed significant needs among the displaced people, particularly for shelter materials before the arrival of the rainy season. The ICRC was requested by the authorities to assume responsibility for assistance to the 13,000 displaced people in Waterloo camp. Meanwhile, tens of thousands of displaced people around Bo and Kenema had been left almost entirely without assistance, owing to difficulties of access. An improvement in the security situation along the roads linking Freetown, Bo and Kenema in mid-June enabled humanitarian organizations to send the first consignment of food relief to these areas.

The self-sufficiency and food security of displaced people in government-controlled areas of the country improved significantly in the second half of the year. The 50,000 displaced people on the Freetown peninsula and 60,000 in Kenema district were the focal points for assistance from the humanitarian community. Camps were built to relocate families from public buildings and in order to provide more adequate accommodation.

As the peace process advanced, the ICRC transformed its emergency assistance into rehabilitation programmes. Together with the Sierra Leone Red Cross, it distributed agricultural assistance, shelter materials and other essentials to displaced people to facilitate their return home. Agro-assistance packages targeting farmers in three districts (Kenema, Pujehun and Tonkilili) particularly affected by the conflict were distributed in October and November to 36,000 people in time for the second planting season, and post-distribution evaluations determined that the distributions had had a significant impact on restoring the beneficiaries' self-sufficiency.

In order to ensure that surgical activities in Netland Surgical Hospital in Freetown continued while it was absent from the country, the ICRC handed these over to MSF,* but kept up the payment of rent and staff salaries. At the Lumley (formerly the Lakka) Rehabilitation Centre, which was transferred to the annex of the ICRC delegation, four local ICRC nurses and one physiotherapist provided care for 50 patients and 30 of their relatives. The ICRC arranged with the WFP to make food deliveries to the patients of Netland Surgical Hospital and the rehabilitation centre and to their relatives.

After the cease-fire, the relative peace meant that the ICRC could return to providing health services to the victims of the conflict, focusing on surgical activities in Netland and Kenema, the provision of drugs to health centres in Freetown, and

* NCDDR: National Committee on Disarmament, Demobilization and Rehabilitation

* MSF: "Médecins sans frontières"

rebuilding the ICRC's image in Sierra Leone

maternal and child health at Princess Christian Maternity Hospital. The ICRC transferred the bulk of its surgical assistance from Netland Surgical Hospital, where needs were diminishing, to the Kenema District Hospital, the main referral hospital in the east, where many war-wounded were expected to emerge from inaccessible areas following the cease-fire and in anticipation of the return of refugees and displaced people to the region. Repairs and rehabilitation work were initiated on the hospital and an ICRC surgical team began work in September.

Before and after the ICRC's expulsion in January, the local press had published numerous critical and unfounded articles about the organization, which together with the accusations levelled against it by the authorities had contributed to a very negative perception of the Red Cross in Sierra Leone. However, as the year progressed the ICRC's image slowly began to improve and more balanced articles appeared in the press. Immediately after its return to the country in May, the ICRC concentrated on bilateral dissemination to ensure that its role and activities in the country were better understood. It also made a point of communicating with and together with the National Society, so as to ensure a common front for the Movement in Sierra Leone. Contacts were established with military officers and instructors with a view to introducing humanitarian law into the training programmes of the future restructured armed forces.

IN 1999 THE ICRC:



- provided material assistance to around 1,300 released detainees;



- together with the Sierra Leone Red Cross, exchanged 6,930 Red Cross messages between displaced people and their relatives within Sierra Leone and between Sierra Leone and abroad;



- together with the National Society, provided 2,857 tonnes of material assistance (blankets, sleeping mats, buckets, kitchen sets and soap) to some 37,000 displaced people and other war victims;
- in October, together with the Sierra Leone Red Cross, distributed agricultural inputs (cassava sticks, sweet potato vines, groundnut seed, vegetable kits and swamp hoes) to more than 36,000 displaced people and vulnerable resident families in the Kenema, Tonkilili and Pujehun districts to help them regain self-sufficiency;
- provided ad hoc material assistance through the Ministry of Health and local NGOs to vulnerable people, mainly in hospitals, orphanages and homes for the handi-capped;
- in December, initiated a number of small-scale institutional food-distribution programmes to meet the special needs of amputees, hospital patients, polio victims, pregnant women, former child combatants and orphans in Freetown;



- until August, assisted the Netland Surgical Hospital with medical supplies and salary incentives for its staff;
- began construction of an operating theatre, physiotherapy unit, outpatient department and kitchen and laundry facilities at the Kenema District Hospital and transformation of the existing kitchen into a 40-bed surgical ward; provided a surgical team to carry out general and corrective surgery (the team performed 96 operations on 48 patients);
- resumed support to 4 clinics in Freetown that treated a total of 29,025 patients over the year, providing them weekly with drugs and medical supplies and paying salary incentives to staff; immunized 6,757 people, including 4,919 children, attending the clinics as part of the WHO* Extended Programme on Immunization;
- provided the 20-bed maternity ward in the Princess Christian Maternity Hospital with the medical supplies and equipment allowing it to dispense free medical/surgical maternity care for destitute people with life-threatening conditions; provided the services of an expatriate health delegate and local field officer to supervise the wards and train Ministry of Health staff; paid the salaries of staff involved in the programme;



- provided support for the Lumley Rehabilitation Centre treating a total of 100 patients and their relatives transferred from Netland Surgical Hospital after surgery;



- continued to support the Sierra Leone Red Cross Society, whose assets were substantially depleted by the conflict, in its emergency-preparedness, tracing and dissemination programmes;
- assisted the National Society in restoring and refurbishing its Bo and Kenema branches;
- held a workshop in Freetown in June with 13 staff and volunteers of the five main branches of the National Society to develop a dissemination plan of action and identify target groups;



- organized press conferences and seminars for the local media and the National Society to explain the ICRC's mandate and principles and to address some of the misconceptions and rumours that had preceded the ICRC's expulsion;
- reinforced its participation in the weekly radio programme, "Red Cross Na Salone", aired by the Sierra Leonean Broadcasting Service, including a panel discussion in September on protection in general and the Movement's tracing network in Sierra Leone in particular.

* WHO: World Health Organization

ABIDJAN

Regional delegation

(Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Guinea and Togo)

coup d'état in Côte d'Ivoire

ICRC gains broader access to detainees in Côte d'Ivoire

mounting tension in Guinea

Of the countries covered by the regional delegation, Benin, Ghana and Togo were generally stable in 1999, apart from the resurgence of ethnic strife in Benin following legislative elections in March, and in Ghana, where about 500 people fled into north-east Togo. Deteriorating economic conditions also prompted social unrest in Ghana and Togo. In May, the Togolese President, whose turn it was to hold the Presidency of ECOWAS, was asked to mediate in the conflict in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.⁵ Togo was also actively involved in finding a solution to the conflict in Sierra Leone during the peace negotiations in Lomé in June.⁶

The build-up to the presidential elections to be held in October 2000 overshadowed other events in Côte d'Ivoire, with the President attempting to outlaw the opposition RDR's* main candidate on the grounds that he was not of Ivorian origin. The political contest between the presidential rivals revived ethnic hatreds, of which people of Burkinabè extraction were the main victims. In November a conflict over land ownership broke out in the south-west of the country between Ivorians from the Kroumen tribe and the immigrant community, mainly from Burkina Faso. More than 20,000 of the immigrants fled the fighting and sought refuge in Grabo and Tabou before being forcibly sent back to Burkina Faso.

The population's dissatisfaction with the state of the economy, in particular the rising cost of living and increases in tax and the cost of insurance, led to public sector strikes, student unrest and violent demonstrations. Many people were arrested, including in October the 13 main RDR leaders, and schools and universities were closed down. The general unrest culminated in a bloodless coup d'état on 24 December, when the army, taking advantage of the chaos generated by mutinous soldiers claiming back pay, toppled the President. In the process, the main jail in Abidjan was opened and emptied of its occupants, including political detainees and penal-law offenders. Meanwhile, several members of the old regime were arrested and held in the Akouedo military camp.

Prior to the coup, the ICRC had negotiated and obtained greater access to places of detention, including police stations, so as to reach all categories of detainees, and a series of visits began in March. In addition, the ICRC carried out ad hoc visits to the 13 arrested RDR leaders and to the members of the old regime arrested in connection with the coup.

Following his contested win in elections in December 1998, the Guinean President tightened his hold on the reins of power. The opposition leader and other opponents of the government arrested during the electoral process remained in detention. The issue fuelled the animosity of ethnic groups cut off from the power base, and opposition parties boycotted all the parliamentary sessions throughout the year. In mid-October, Conakry was the scene of widespread student protests against sharp price increases. Clashes between the security forces and protesters left two dead and several dozen wounded. A large number of people were detained.

Attacks by Liberian rebels on the Liberian town of Voinjama, allegedly from bases in Guinea, put a strain on relations between the two countries. In April, Liberia's President threatened military action against Guinea if the Liberian dissidents

⁵ See pp. 74-75.

⁶ See pp. 51-52.

* RDR: 'Rassemblement de la République'

*visits authorized
to detainees in Guinea*

*progress in the implementation
of humanitarian law*

*making humanitarian law
a reality*

operating in Guinea were not contained. Liberian armed groups from bases in Liberia had also carried out incursions onto Guinean territory. Armed RUF members also made regular cross-border raids on Guinean border villages from Sierra Leone, sometimes in search of food, other times to settle scores. The peace process in Sierra Leone begun in mid-year and a dialogue between Guinea, Sierra Leone and Liberia helped to improve security along the borders.

The conflicts in Liberia, Sierra Leone and Guinea-Bissau had prompted large influxes of refugees into Guinea. A UNHCR census in June 1999 estimated the number of refugees in Guinea at 480,000, of which 420,000 were in the region of Guéckédou and Nzérékoré and 60,000 in Forecariah. The end of hostilities in Guinea-Bissau enabled Guinean troops to withdraw from that country and refugees who had fled the conflict to be repatriated.

In November the ICRC Vice-President met the Guinean President and other senior government officials in Conakry. Following the visit, the Ministries of Security and Justice signed an agreement granting the ICRC access to all places of detention throughout Guinea, the fruit of two years of negotiations. The categories of detainees were to include imprisoned political opponents of the regime and Sierra Leonean refugees arrested near the border on charges of complicity with the rebels. Unfortunately, the ICRC had temporarily to suspend its visits, begun in December, because it was not allowed to carry them out in full accordance with its customary procedures.

The Ivorian Ministry of Defence established a national humanitarian law bureau in charge of dissemination to the armed forces and training in the law of armed conflict. The ICRC provided financial and technical support and trained members of the bureau and the legal staff of the Ministry of Defence. Following regular working sessions attended by the ICRC, a training programme in humanitarian law was incorporated into the official curriculum of the national police academy in Côte d'Ivoire.

The Ivorian parliament ratified the Ottawa landmines treaty, as did the Togolese National Assembly. In December Togo adopted a law governing the use of the red cross and red crescent emblems. An interministerial committee on humanitarian law was established in Benin with the financial and technical support of the ICRC.

On 19 June, with the support of the ICRC and the Red Cross Society of Côte d'Ivoire, a theatre group gave its first performance of a play on the theme "Even wars have limits", as part of the "People on War" project. The performance took place at Ki-yi Village, a private institution for the rehabilitation of street children in Abidjan. A hundred diplomats, government representatives, artists and journalists attended the opening of the play, the first in a series on the same theme that was performed regularly at the Ki-yi Village theatre. In addition, a rap music contest was organized over a two-month period by Côte d'Ivoire's most popular radio station; contestants were required to improvise lyrics on humanitarian themes. In Togo, as part of a country-wide media campaign, a short play on the basics of humanitarian law was broadcast in three languages on national television and radio.

In April the Paris-based International Law 90 Research Centre (IL90) invited 20 African, American and European experts to take part in a discussion on compliance with humanitarian law held at the University of Abidjan before an audience of 300 people. Besides the ICRC, the speakers included the Director of the Côte d'Ivoire Legal

Research Centre (CIREJ) and the Secretary-General of the International Commission of Jurists.

The ICRC used the 50th anniversary of the Geneva Conventions as an opportunity to promote better knowledge of humanitarian law in all the countries of the region, organizing press conferences, workshops and exhibitions to give greater prominence to the role and mandate of the ICRC and foster public awareness of humanitarian issues, especially through the media and among National Society members. In Côte d'Ivoire, the ICRC and the National Society organized a three-day cultural festival in Abidjan. Before an audience of about 5,000 people, 50 of Côte d'Ivoire's best groups and entertainers performed on an open-air stage during two non-stop shows of music, dance, theatre and comedy. The works of seven local artists were displayed alongside the ICRC's "People on War" photo exhibition.

IN 1999 THE ICRC:



- in Côte d'Ivoire, visited detainees in 18 places of detention; when necessary distributed soap, agricultural tools, seeds, fertilizer and books to all inmates; carried out ad hoc sanitary work and provided medical care; provided supplementary food for a three-month period to malnourished prisoners in Sassandra and Man prisons, in cooperation with a local NGO;



- in cooperation with UNHCR, monitored the situation of Liberian and Sierra Leonean refugees in camps in Guinea and assessed the needs of Guineans displaced because of the tension in the border area;



- exchanged 4,119 Red Cross messages on behalf of Sierra Leonean and Liberian refugees in Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana and Guinea;



- jointly with the Red Cross Society of Côte d'Ivoire, distributed assistance (rice, oil, salt, baby food, straw mats, blankets and shelter materials) to 6,000 people of Burkinabè origin, driven from their land during the conflict in November;



- in Guinea, supplied medical materials to health facilities located along the borders with Liberia and Sierra Leone;
- during the disturbances in Conakry in October, transported the wounded to hospital together with Guinean Red Cross volunteers, assessed needs in the various hospitals treating the wounded and distributed basic first-aid materials through the National Society;



- financed the information/dissemination and emergency-preparedness programmes of the Red Cross Societies of Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Guinea and Togo; contributed to coordinators' salaries and the production of regular newsletters, supplied equipment and materials, funded the National Societies' activities commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Geneva Conventions and helped organize and/or fund seminars, dissemination sessions and training courses;
- helped the Red Cross of Benin create, train and equip 26 new emergency medical teams and evaluate 99 existing teams; provided the National Society with financial and technical support to record five radio programmes aimed at raising public awareness of Red Cross principles in three languages;
- provided financial support to the Côte d'Ivoire Red Cross for a number of community-based initiatives to spread knowledge of the Movement's work; trained 11 emergency teams and 72 new volunteers; funded the refurbishment of a number of working areas at the National Society's headquarters;
- in Togo, funded and took part in a six-day workshop for 24 women leaders from the central region with the aim of familiarizing the participants with first-aid techniques and Red Cross principles; as part of its pilot programme for Red Cross training in primary schools, financed and conducted 3 working sessions with 8 participating teachers; carried out 45 Red Cross information tours in 15 villages in rural areas;
- in Togo, conducted a Red Cross information session in mid-August for 61 volunteers from the National Societies of Ghana, Côte d'Ivoire and Togo;



- continued its efforts to promote greater understanding and acceptance of humanitarian law and of the ICRC among various target groups in the region, namely the civilian and military authorities, the police, the armed forces, various organizations, academic circles and the general public.

DAKAR

Regional delegation

(Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Niger, Senegal)

President ousted in Guinea-Bissau

emergency response during the fighting

visits to detainees proceed

glimmer of hope in Casamance

On 31 January fighting broke out in Guinea-Bissau for the third time since 1998⁷ between troops loyal to the President and those of the military junta. Some 70,000 people fled, approximately 100 were killed and 400 wounded. The President met the head of the military junta in Bissau on 20 February and announced the creation of a government of national unity. With the withdrawal of foreign troops from Senegal and Guinea by mid-March, most of the displaced people returned home. The truce was short-lived, however. A further bout of fighting in May prompted yet another exodus from the capital. After two days of clashes in which 80 people died and more than 200 were injured, the government forces were defeated and the military junta's soldiers marched into Bissau. As calm returned to the capital, displaced people began to flock back. ECOMOG peacekeeping forces, which had refrained from taking part in the fighting, ended their mission in Guinea-Bissau in May. Presidential elections were held on 28 November in a generally quiet and orderly manner, with the two leading candidates going forward to a second round scheduled for January 2000.

At the height of the fighting, the ICRC publicly appealed to the parties to comply with the rules of humanitarian law. The violence of the exchanges of artillery fire in Bissau in January made it difficult for ICRC delegates to move about the capital freely, but as soon as it was safe to do so they delivered emergency medical supplies to the Simao Mendes Central Hospital, where five surgeons were operating round the clock on the war-wounded, while National Society staff evacuated the wounded and dead. When displaced people returned to the capital following the truce, the ICRC and the National Society distributed emergency assistance to those whose homes had been destroyed in the fighting. In May, an ICRC team worked alongside the National Society, administering first aid, evacuating the wounded to hospital and transporting corpses to the morgue.

Visits continued to prisoners held by the military junta. In January, for the first time since the onset of hostilities, delegates were also able to visit people detained by the government in connection with the conflict. Following the junta's victory in May, the ICRC approached the new authorities and ECOMOG in order to obtain access to more than 700 newly arrested people, including members of the old regime. Although many were rapidly released, more than 100 detainees falling under the ICRC's mandate were still being held at the end of the year, awaiting the next step in the legal process.

Following the end of hostilities and the return of displaced people to their homes, the ICRC scaled down its Red Cross message service and relief activities. Four field trips carried out by the ICRC throughout the country to assess the situation revealed that farmers were able to harvest and sell their cashew nuts, enabling them to purchase enough rice to see the population through to the next rice harvest.

A meeting between the Senegalese President and the MFDC* leader on 22 January hinted at the possibility of peace for Senegal's conflict-torn Casamance region. A further positive sign was the release in February of 117 people held in connection with the unrest. Clashes were nonetheless regularly reported between the separatist movement and the armed forces, especially in areas close to the border with Guinea-Bissau, where the MFDC continued to maintain bases. The fighting claimed

⁷ See the ICRC's 1998 Annual Report, pp. 54-55.

* MFDC: "Mouvement des forces démocratiques de Casamance"

*vegetable gardens
to improve detainees' health*

troubles persist in northern Mali

*programmes completed
in northern Mali*

seminar on light weapons

civilian lives and led to fresh population displacements. Peace talks got under way in Banjul on 26 December, the third attempt by the two parties since 1991 to find a peaceful settlement to the conflict. On the last day of the year, 41 detainees held in connection with Casamance events were released after receiving a presidential pardon.

The ICRC continued to visit detainees held in connection with the strife in Casamance. It launched its third vegetable garden project, this time at the Bignona prison, where the annual production of roughly 85 tonnes of vegetables was intended to help improve the nutritional intake of detainees at the Bignona and Ziguinchor prisons. The Kolda vegetable garden project, which had yielded 45 tonnes of vegetables in its initial one-year period, continued to run successfully and greatly helped to balance and enhance the quality and quantity of food distributed to the detainees.

Municipal elections in Mali in June concluded the election process (legislative, presidential and municipal) initiated in 1997. Although the elections were relatively unperturbed in most parts of the country, there were upheavals in the Gao and Kidal regions. Inter-ethnic clashes occurred in July and August in the north, claiming some 30 victims. Additional troops were deployed in the northern part of the country to help ease tensions. The situation in the north, compounded by the activities of armed bandits, seriously restricted the ICRC's movements in the area.

In 1999 the ICRC completed two major projects for the population in northern Mali begun in the early 1990s in the aftermath of the rebellion and designed to help counter the region's recurrent instability and chronic underdevelopment. The first, conducted over a period of three years, involved constructing or rehabilitating and equipping 19 community health centres – ten around Timbuktu by an ICRC team, and nine around Bourem in Gao as part of a project delegated to the Belgian Red Cross. ICRC and Belgian Red Cross teams conducted missions to the field to offer people in remote areas health services similar to those provided in the health centres, such as vaccination, and to raise awareness of basic health standards. By the end of the year, the ICRC and the Belgian Red Cross were in a position to hand over responsibility for all the health centres to local associations representing the communities.

The ICRC also completed its water and sanitation project, begun in 1997. Over three years it sank or rehabilitated some 150 wells or water holes serving health centres and remote rural communities without access to clean water.

With the financial and technical support of the Norwegian Red Cross, PCASED* and the ICRC, the Mali Red Cross Society organized a seminar in Bamako on 5 and 6 October on the theme of "humanitarian challenges in the face of the proliferation of light weapons", attended by representatives of the National Societies of nine ECOWAS member States (Mali, Senegal, Côte d'Ivoire, Burkina Faso, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Cape Verde, Togo and Benin). An official ceremony commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Geneva Conventions was held alongside the seminar, with the participation of the former Malian head of State, Amadou Toumani Touré.

On 9 April a coup d'état which led to the assassination of the President, who himself came to power in a coup in 1996, caused worldwide indignation and the immediate suspension of international aid to Niger. The junta regime that followed the

* PCASED: Programme for Coordination and Assistance on Security and Development In West Africa

coup d'état in Niger

protests in Burkina Faso

assistance to Burkinabè returnees

*Gambia: detainees allowed
to communicate with families*

*humanitarian law
implementation*

*humanitarian law
and military training*

coup set up a Niger Reconciliation Council, a body of 14 members acting as the supreme executive power. Six months after the coup, on 17 October, presidential and legislative elections were held and the military rulers prepared to hand over power to a civilian government, but not before securing an amnesty for themselves and those who had taken part in the 1996 coup.

Violent demonstrations in Burkina Faso following the murder of journalist Norbert Zongo in December 1998 gave way to generally peaceful student, trade union and human rights group protests against the reign of impunity. Riots erupted again at the end of November in Ouagadougou, opposing the security forces and students demanding the release of 22 of their colleagues arrested during earlier protests.

Some 10,000 people of Burkinabè nationality, violently expelled from Côte d'Ivoire in November,⁸ returned to Burkina Faso. Many had had to leave everything behind. With ICRC support, the Burkinabè Red Cross mounted an assistance operation for the returnees in several towns along the border.

In July the ICRC was given permission to exchange Red Cross messages on behalf of detainees held in Mile 2 prison in Banjul, Gambia, for their part in the 1994 coup attempt. They had been kept incommunicado for more than four years.

On 26 November, a working meeting was held between the Interministerial Committee on Humanitarian Law and the ICRC to examine the status of implementation of humanitarian law in Senegal.

Following the coup in Niger, the ICRC established contact with the new authorities during a mission to Niamey in June in order to secure guarantees from the Ministers of Foreign Affairs, Defence, Justice and Higher Education that humanitarian law programmes would continue. Another mission to Niamey in October was undertaken by the representative of the ICRC's Advisory Service based in Abidjan and a delegate from Bamako at the request of Niger's Ministry of Justice and Human Rights to assist the authorities in revising the penal code to take into account grave breaches of humanitarian law.

In Burkina Faso, a seminar on the implementation of humanitarian law in May, attended by some 50 key figures from various ministries and by representatives of the National Society, and a follow-up meeting in July, resulted in the creation of a provisional national committee with a view to incorporating humanitarian law into national legislation.

An assessment of the current state of implementation of humanitarian law in Gambia was finalized by a Gambian lawyer and, on the ICRC's recommendation, the government created an interministerial committee on humanitarian law on 12 August. This was followed on 30 November and 1 December by Gambia's first seminar on the implementation of humanitarian law, organized jointly by the ICRC, the Gambia Red Cross Society and the Gambian Department of State for Justice.

The Mali armed forces Chief-of-Staff and close advisors met with a view to incorporating a compulsory humanitarian law programme into the curricula of military education centres as of 2000. On 12 August, the ICRC held a meeting with some 30 senior officers to emphasize the importance of disseminating humanitarian law to the Malian armed forces and of including it in military training. The Chief-of-Staff and Joint Chiefs-of-Staff attended the presentation, as did the directors of the military

⁸ See p. 57.

academies. A meeting was also held in May with the Minister of Defence and his key advisor in Ouagadougou to discuss the dissemination of humanitarian law to the Burkinabè armed forces and its teaching in military academies.

Following the authorization received in May from the Army Commander, dissemination sessions began for members of the Gambian armed forces. The first and second phases of the programme went ahead in military barracks in Banjul and the interior in July and October respectively. On these occasions, copies of the "Soldier's Manual", specially printed by the delegation in the national colours, were distributed to the troops.

IN 1999 THE ICRC:

- in Guinea-Bissau, from March visited 741 detainees in 5 places of detention under the authority of the military junta; provided them with food and material assistance and offered them the opportunity to exchange Red Cross messages with their families; supplied ad hoc food assistance to detainees;
- in Gambia, visited 22 detainees in 2 places of detention and distributed assistance to the inmates to improve their living and hygiene conditions;
- in Senegal, visited 166 detainees (21 for the first time) in 3 places of detention; provided assistance for the maintenance of the detainees' vegetable garden in Kolda prison, extended medical assistance to the clinics of the Kolda and Ziguinchor detention centres, and distributed books and card games;



- exchanged 230 Red Cross messages on behalf of displaced people and families dispersed by the conflict in Guinea-Bissau;



- through the Senegalese Red Cross, distributed 244 tonnes of food to 6,214 people displaced by the clashes in Casamance;
- distributed material assistance (tents, matting, jerrycans, buckets and blankets) to 2,515 families whose homes had been destroyed by the fighting in Bissau in October 1998;



- in Mali, supported and completed the health programme in Gao and Timbuktu, by helping construct 19 health centres, training staff and improving the water supply and sanitation facilities in existing health centres; trained nursing aides and midwives in courses organized by the ICRC in Timbuktu and by the Belgian Red Cross in Gao;
- in Guinea-Bissau, provided medical supplies to the Simao Mendes Central Hospital, which treated the wounded during the bouts of fighting, renovated the hospital's radiology wing, supplied spare parts for x-ray equipment and repaired shattered windows in the surgical wing; provided the military hospital at the air base with dressing kits;
- together with volunteers of the Red Cross Society of Guinea-Bissau, retrieved corpses from the river during the hostilities in January and arranged for their burial;



- in Mali, continued to repair wells and sank 8 new ones for use by humans or livestock between Gao and Timbuktu;



- provided support for the publication of newsletters, special brochures and first-aid manuals produced by the region's National Societies as part of its assistance to dissemination programmes;
- financially supported the production of the Burkinabè Red Cross Society's weekly radio programmes on the Movement's principles and humanitarian law;
- conducted training and refresher courses for 22 Senegalese Red Cross first-aid teams;
- supported the construction of a head office for the Senegalese Red Cross's medical-social centre in the conflict-torn Kolda region and of the local branch headquarters, and partially met the operating costs of the Ziguinchor regional committee;
- supported the Senegalese Red Cross's programme of food assistance to displaced people from nine villages in Casamance;
- contributed towards the running costs of the Gambia Red Cross Society;
- participated in the start-up study on the Mali Red Cross Society's five-year strategic plan, organized under the aegis of the Federation;



- held workshops for the authorities in Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger and Senegal to promote humanitarian law and evaluate the progress made so far in its implementation;
- held consultations with military authorities and key officials of the region's Ministries of Defence concerning the inclusion of humanitarian law in military training programmes; held workshops on ICRC activities and humanitarian law for members of the region's armed forces;
- organized events around the 50th anniversary of the Geneva Conventions in all the countries of the region and produced promotional items such as T-shirts, baseball caps and schoolbooks.

LAGOS

Regional delegation
(Nigeria)

return to civilian rule

intercommunal violence persists

scale-down of ECOMOG forces

*authorities tackle prison
overcrowding*

General Abdulsalam Abubakar, who had come to power in 1998 on the death of the country's military ruler, General Sani Abacha,⁹ and the Provisional Ruling Council continued to oversee the country's transition to civilian rule. Elections in February were won by Olusegun Obasanjo, president of Nigeria from 1976 to 1979, making him Nigeria's first civilian ruler for over 15 years. Obasanjo was sworn into office on 29 May in Abuja and immediately embarked on a political reform programme covering a broad range of sectors, with particular emphasis on food security, education, physical and social infrastructure, unemployment and the Niger Delta question.

Urgent issues of power sharing and reconciliation between the country's ethnic groups remained to be resolved and ethnic tensions continuously hovered beneath the surface. Outbreaks of intercommunal violence occurred at various points in the year in Anambra, Kaduna and Ogun states, resulting in hundreds of casualties. In the volatile Niger Delta area, hostilities between the Ijaw, itsekiri and Urhobo peoples escalated, and three gunboats had to be despatched to the area. Following the murder of 12 policemen and the abduction of four soldiers in Bayelsa state in November, the federal government launched a massive military operation to restore order. The resulting clashes left virtually the whole town of Odi destroyed, and most of the inhabitants fled to more secure grounds.

Further friction arose over plans by certain local authorities to introduce Sharia law in areas inhabited by both Muslims and Christians. Business interests also played a part in exacerbating tensions. On 25 November, violent clashes erupted between Yoruba and Hausa communities in the densely populated Kefu area of Lagos over control of the market and collection of levies. Many houses, shops and vehicles were burned, paralysing the economic activity of thousands of traders and residents. Some 80 to 90 people were killed.

Military operations in connection with the dispute with Cameroon over the Bakassi Peninsula stayed frozen pending a ruling by the international Court of Justice, expected in 2001. All prisoners of war held in connection with this conflict had been repatriated in 1998.¹⁰

The defence chiefs of countries contributing to ECOMOG peacekeeping operations in Sierra Leone met in Abuja in April to review their operations. At the meeting, a Nigerian official stated that his country intended to withdraw its 12,000-strong force from Sierra Leone by the end of the year, although this was not in fact done. Meanwhile, the last batch of Nigerian soldiers serving in the ECOMOG forces in Liberia returned home, ending nine years of Nigerian military involvement to restore peace to Liberia.

The government established a task force to look at ways of easing congestion in prisons and the courts, especially regarding cases involving detainees held without trial. With this in mind, it unveiled a two-phase prison reform programme aimed at reducing the death toll, disease, squalor and overcrowding in prisons. In early March, the Provisional Ruling Council released 30 persons accused of taking part in the coup plots of 1995 and 1997. Three weeks later, eight non-commissioned officers, convicted for their part in the coup plot of 1990, were also freed. At the end of May, just before the transfer of power to President Obasanjo, the Council repealed

⁹ See the ICRC's 1998 Annual Report, p. 60.

¹⁰ See the ICRC's 1998 Annual Report, pp. 60-62 and p. 86.

*ICRC acts through
the National Society*

humanitarian law on the agenda

Decree 2 of 1984 which authorized the indefinite detention of persons without trial on undefined grounds of security. Decree 2 had been used by past military administrations to lock up political opponents. According to the former Minister of Internal Affairs, 3,239 inmates were released from prison between June 1998 and May 1999.

The Nigerian Red Cross Society, present in all 36 states, is widely known and accepted. The ICRC therefore concentrated on building up the National Society's capacity to respond to any eventuality, especially in areas to which the ICRC would not have easy access. It also supported the Nigerian Red Cross's efforts to provide assistance to the victims of internal violence, wherever needs arose, such as the distribution of dressing materials to clinics treating the wounded and assistance to the displaced. The National Society also developed a welfare programme in the prisons of 12 states, for which the ICRC provided support and technical assistance.

The Nigerian Red Cross was quick to respond during the violence in Lagos in November, mobilizing 52 volunteers to help provide first aid and evacuating more than 150 casualties to hospital. The ICRC supplied the National Society with dressing materials for two hospitals treating the wounded and with jerrycans and cups for the distribution of safe water to 700 displaced persons who had taken refuge in the Ketu police station.

Following the military intervention in Odi in November, many people were left homeless and living in precarious conditions. The ICRC supplied the Nigerian Red Cross with mattresses, cooking utensils, soap, jerrycans and medicines to distribute to these people, and sent water tankers to provide clean water.

In April the ICRC submitted a legal memorandum to the Nigerian Minister of Justice detailing the amendments to Nigerian legislation required to give effect to the Additional Protocols and strengthen protection of the emblem. The ICRC also recommended the creation of an interministerial committee to look into these matters.

A major shake-up in the police and armed forces following the change of government prevented the ICRC from fully implementing all of its planned dissemination programmes. As a result of the retirement or transfer of many senior officers, the ICRC had to concentrate on building up a new network of contacts in the Ministry of Defence and within the various divisions of the armed forces. It nonetheless kept up its efforts to promote the inclusion of the law of armed conflict in the curricula of the major military training institutions, holding workshops and meetings with senior officers.

Nigeria was one of the countries selected for the ICRC's "People on War" project. The recruitment of participants in the survey was carried out by the National Society's state branches in Lagos, Enugu, Rivers and Kaduna. After a three-day workshop held in Lagos, 42 Red Cross volunteers interviewed 1,000 people in 12 states on their experiences of conflict and views on humanitarian law, in this case in connection with the Biafran civil war, and conducted 20 in-depth interviews and eight focus group discussions.

In addition, the ICRC organized several events around the 50th anniversary of the Geneva Conventions. Together with the Nigerian Red Cross, the National Human Rights Commission and the Nigerian Institute of International Affairs, it organized two seminars on the theme "Even wars have limits", one in Lagos attended by 160 participants and one in Abuja attended by 120 guests, representatives of ministries and government offices, the Nigerian armed forces, NGOs and diplomatic missions.

IN 1999 THE ICRC:



- supported the National Society's programme to improve the water supply and sanitation systems in prisons by providing technical assistance for training workshops for branch leaders responsible for implementing the programmes and by supplying basic sanitation materials;



- provided the Nigerian Red Cross with supplies and logistic and financial support for its emergency activities in aid of communities affected by intercommunal clashes in Bayelsa, Niger Delta, Kaduna, Odi and Lagos;



- distributed water to homeless people in Odi and Bayelsa states in December;



- supported the Nigerian Red Cross's efforts to be more present at grassroots level, including through emergency-preparedness training and workshops on hygiene and sanitation;
- defrayed the structural expenses of the National Society's dissemination department and covered the costs of producing publications on humanitarian law;
- supplied the Nigerian Red Cross with first-aid and relief materials to improve its branches' emergency preparedness and assist people affected by intercommunal clashes;
- conducted a two-day dissemination workshop for 32 representatives of the 37 branches of the Nigerian Red Cross to harmonize the National Society's dissemination policy and techniques;



- gave presentations on the law of armed conflict and ICRC activities to members of the Nigerian armed forces, Sierra Leonean army cadets, members of the security forces and others;
- offered technical assistance for the drafting of national laws and regulations for the implementation of humanitarian law and its inclusion in official training programmes.

BURUNDI



⊕ ICRC delegation

⊕ ICRC office

little progress in peace talks

Several rounds of peace talks in Arusha, Tanzania, failed to achieve a breakthrough in the quest for a solution to the conflict in Burundi. Nevertheless, on 23 January the heads of State of Kenya, Tanzania, Rwanda and Ethiopia, together with high-level representatives of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Zambia, agreed to lift the embargo imposed on Burundi following the 1996 coup d'état.¹¹

Despite the lifting of sanctions, Burundi's economy continued its downward spiral, with harsh repercussions on the lives of ordinary people. Unemployment remained high and poverty widespread. The health and education infrastructure had suffered badly, medicines were in short supply, and qualified medical staff had either left the country or were concentrated in Bujumbura. Drought in the north-east and, paradoxically, heavy rainfall at other times of the year resulted in partial crop failures. This, coupled with the huge numbers of displaced people no longer cultivating their lands, sent food prices soaring.

If the north and east of Burundi were generally calm in 1999, the same could not be said for the south and west of the country. From the beginning of May there

¹¹ See the ICRC's 1996 Annual Report, p. 53.

escalation of armed incidents

was a marked increase in the number of attacks by armed groups against military targets and the civilian population in Bururi, Makamba, Rutana and Bujumbura-Rural provinces.

The situation worsened as the year progressed, and also began to affect the outskirts of Bujumbura and southern districts. Confrontations and skirmishes between government forces and armed opposition groups caused numerous casualties among combatants and the civilian population.

population movements

More than 600,000 internally displaced people remained in camps; most of them had been there since 1996. Some 200,000 others were still living as refugees in neighbouring Tanzania, with about 50,000 more arriving to swell their numbers in the second half of the year. As part of a government policy to improve security in the affected regions, a further 330,000 people were relocated by the security forces to makeshift sites in Bujumbura-Rural province, bringing the total of internally displaced people and Burundian refugees to nearly 1.2 million out of a population of approximately 6.4 million. Many of the relocation sites in Burundi were out of reach of the UN and NGOs, situated as they were in difficult terrain well off the roads or in areas affected by ongoing fighting; this made it hard for aid workers to respond to the needs of displaced people.

ICRC progressively resumes activities

In March, following an in-depth dialogue with the authorities begun in July 1998,¹² the ICRC formally resumed its activities in Burundi after a three-year hiatus brought about by the serious security incident in June 1996 which cost the lives of three of its delegates.¹³ Initial emphasis was placed on activities for people deprived of their freedom and assistance to the sick and wounded.

security still a major problem

Attacks on the main roads around Bujumbura obliged the ICRC to suspend journeys by car outside the capital from the end of June and thereafter to adapt its methods so that delegates could continue their work in relative safety. The ICRC set up a decentralized network, with outposts in Ngozi and Gitega, to which delegates could travel by ICRC plane from Bujumbura, and from there carry out visits to prisons. A serious security incident in October, during which nine people, among them two expatriate UN aid workers, were killed in an ambush in a relocation camp in the southern province of Rutana, underscored the fragile nature of the security situation.

visits to detainees focus on improving living conditions

An offer of services to visit detainees in prisons was addressed to the highest authorities and accepted by the Ministry of Justice. In April the ICRC conducted its first visits to civilian prisons in three years in accordance with its traditional working procedures. By June it had visited eight of the country's eleven central prisons, which between them housed more than 80 per cent of the prison population. A plan of action was drawn up with a view to tackling the problems observed in cooperation with the prison authorities. A Memorandum of Understanding setting out the framework for cooperation between the ICRC and the DGAP* on a rehabilitation programme in jails visited by the ICRC (water supplies and distribution, toilets and showers, waste systems and kitchen facilities) was signed by the Ministry of Justice in November.

Work centred on improving detainees' health and hygiene conditions so as to reduce the risk of epidemics and the spread of disease. Hygiene products were dis-

¹² See the ICRC's 1998 Annual Report, p. 63.

¹³ See the ICRC's 1996 Annual Report, p. 51.

* DGAP: "Direction générale des affaires pénitentiaires"

*water and medical care
are given priority*

raising awareness

tributed to the inmates of prisons visited, and health monitoring programmes were initiated in Gitega prison and Ngozi men's prison.

On 28 June, in close cooperation with the ICRC delegation in Kinshasa, the Bujumbura delegation helped repatriate 13 Burundian civilians who had been interned in Lubumbashi and Kinshasa in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.¹⁴

The ICRC supplied medicines to two local dispensaries per region selected because they provided treatment both in prisons and to the general public. Local health staff received additional training so that they could provide appropriate care for sick detainees. The ICRC also distributed badly needed medical supplies to health centres and hospitals. In response to attacks in the outskirts of Bujumbura, the ICRC delivered medical materials to hospitals in Bujumbura and Gitega treating the wounded.

Owing to the conflict and economic embargo, many urban water systems had not been maintained for years. Following assessments in Bujumbura, Gitega and Ngozi prisons, the ICRC decided to increase the availability of water not only in the prisons but also for the local population, including in particular hospitals. In Ngozi, for example, the ICRC rehabilitated three water catchments and repaired a 123m³ water reservoir and one of the pumping stations, thereby increasing the town's overall water supply for the benefit of the residents, detainees and health facilities. The ICRC developed good working relations with the REGIDESO,* with which a Memorandum of Understanding was signed concerning the rehabilitation of the water distribution system.

All the ICRC's activities in Burundi included a dissemination component, to help build up understanding and acceptance of the organization and its working methods. Delegates also met regularly with key government officials and senior armed forces officers in order to promote ongoing consultation regarding the ICRC's various plans and projects and to receive direct feedback from them.

¹⁴ See p. 77.

* REGIDESO: Burundi's water authority for urban areas

IN 1999 THE ICRC:



- visited 9,200 detainees of all categories in 8 places of detention in Bujumbura, Ngozi, Gitega, Muramvya, Musinga, Rutana and Ruyigi, and distributed hygiene products, kitchen utensils and recreational items to them;
- carried out a comprehensive disinfection and disinfestation operation in Mpimba prison (Bujumbura); handed over equipment and materials to the prison authorities and trained teams of prisoners to carry out similar operations regularly;
- repaired sanitary installations in 3 places of detention; began work to install a 45m³ water tank in Gitega prison;



- provided basic medical supplies to 6 dispensaries for the treatment of 1,500 people per month from among both the local and prison populations;
- provided Bujumbura's 2 main hospitals, the Military Hospital and Prince Regent Charles Hospital, and the hospitals of Gitega, Ngozi and Rutana with monthly supplies of drugs and surgical materials for the treatment of some 120 war-wounded;
- provided support to the Gitega hospital for the treatment of the war-wounded;



- assessed the need to rehabilitate and improve water production and distribution systems in Ngozi town, with a population of 25,000 people; together with the REGIDESO, devised a plan to increase the daily quantity of clean water available for inhabitants of Ngozi from 30 to 70 litres per capita, and to this end, rehabilitated 3 water catchments and repaired the 123m³ water tank;



- trained staff of the Burundi Red Cross Society (provincial and communal committee members and volunteers) in the dissemination of humanitarian law;
- at the end of May, in cooperation with the Federation, held a three-day training course for new volunteers from the Bujumbura-Rural branch of the Burundi Red Cross Society;
- in cooperation with the Federation, trained provincial relief teams as part of the National Society's disaster-preparedness programme;



- in September, at the request of armed forces instructors, presented the ICRC, its activities and basic rules of humanitarian law as part of a training course for 20 officers at the Burundian army's "Institut Supérieur des Cadres Militaires" in Bujumbura;
- made presentations on humanitarian law and the ICRC's role and mandate to local and prison authorities;
- organized a half-day session on the ICRC's mandate and activities in Burundi for representatives of the country's main media.

CENTRAL AFRICA DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

PROTECTION

5,686,697

ASSISTANCE

18,506,051

PREVENTIVE ACTION

705,543

COOPERATION WITH THE NATIONAL SOCIETY

1,509,280

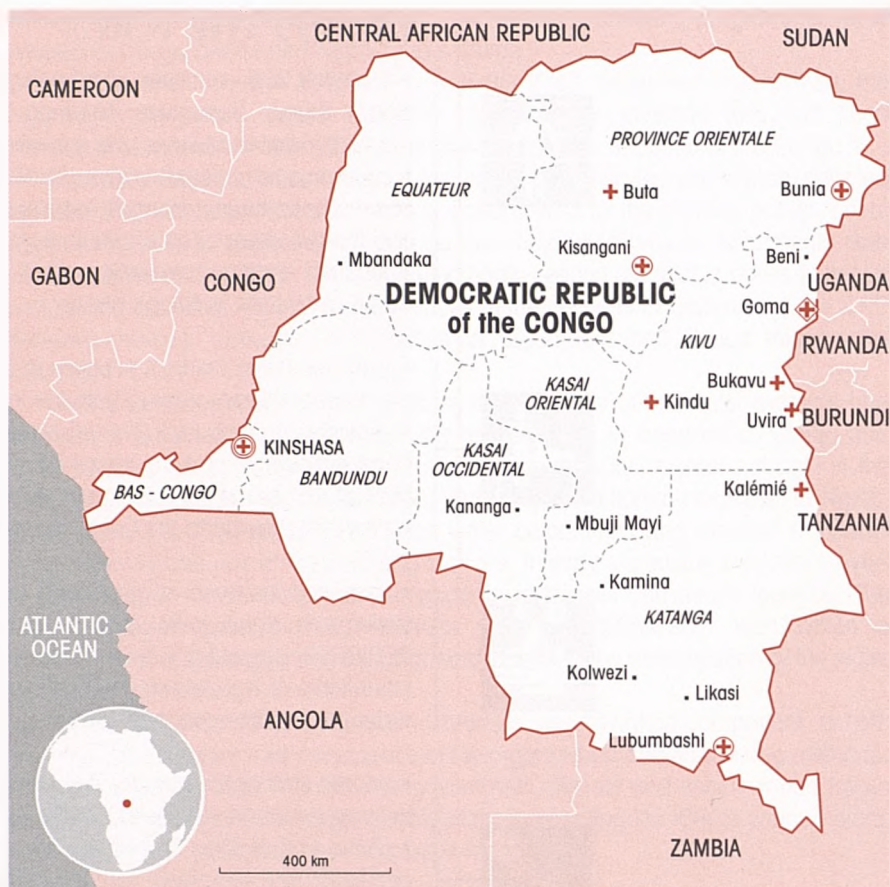
OVERHEADS

1,615,143

GENERAL

1,719,618

TOTAL EXPENDITURE Sfr 29,742,333



⛶ ICRC delegation ⬤ ICRC sub-delegation + ICRC office ⛶ ICRC mission

The year was another one of huge upheaval for the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The country was shaken by the conflict which had broken out in August 1998¹⁵ and rapidly developed into an internationalized conflict, with the forces of at least six other African nations involved in the fighting between government troops and myriad opposition groups and factions. It remained divided by a front line that left the government in control of Kinshasa and the west and south of the country and the RCD* opposition in control of much of the east and north-east.

The end of 1998 saw the emergence of a new opposition movement, the MLC,* operating in the north-west of the country. In mid-May, the ousting of the RCD leader resulted in the creation of a second RCD movement (RCD-Wamba) backed by Uganda and based in Kisangani; the original movement based in Goma continued to enjoy the support of Rwanda. A rift between Uganda and Rwanda, a reflection of the split within the RCD, escalated to the point where the forces of the two countries

¹⁵ See the ICRC's 1998 Annual Report, pp. 64-65.

* RCD: "Rassemblement congolais pour la démocratie"

* MLC: "Mouvement de libération congolais"

conflict threatens regional stability

*peace efforts lead
to Lusaka agreement...*

... but few tangible changes

clashed in Kisangani in August. The situation was brought under control following meetings between high-level representatives of Uganda and Rwanda.

Clashes between government and opposition forces in the east and south-east prompted ever more population displacements, with many people flocking over the border into neighbouring Tanzania. Goma, Uvira and Kalémié were all hit by aerial bombardments in May, causing numerous civilian casualties. The situation was compounded by instances of localized ethnic strife, often causing the worst havoc and the greatest number of casualties. Bloody clashes over land rights erupted in June between the Hema and Lendu tribes in the north-eastern district of Ituri. According to local sources, the fighting claimed thousands of lives, and an estimated 100,000 to 150,000 people fled their homes, 85,000 of them finding refuge in and around Bunia.

The international community, led by the OAU* and the SADC,* organized a series of meetings to seek a peaceful settlement to the conflict. A partial solution was found after Libya succeeded in bringing the presidents of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Uganda, Chad and Eritrea around the same table to sign the Syrte accord on 18 April. The only tangible result, however, was that Chadian forces withdrew from the Democratic Republic of the Congo in May. In June, talks were initiated in Lusaka, Zambia, in an effort to find a more comprehensive agreement. A cease-fire was signed on 10 July by all the countries involved in the conflict and in August by representatives of the different opposition groups. It came into effect on 1 September, and a timetable was set for the withdrawal of all foreign forces, the re-establishment of government control over the whole territory and the normalization of the security situation along the country's borders with its neighbours.

On the ground the cease-fire appeared to have little impact, with serious clashes between the armed opposition and government forces threatening to undermine the agreement, and each party accusing the other of violating the cease-fire. The scheduled withdrawal of foreign forces had not taken place by the end of the year, nor had the disarmament of the different opposition groups. The creation of a Joint Military Commission to oversee the cease-fire took months to get off the ground, amid wrangling over who was to represent the RCD. The Commission finally met three times in 1999, mostly to discuss the release of POWs and captured combatants and access by humanitarian organizations to victims of the conflict.

Hesitant steps were taken towards inter-Congolese negotiations to settle matters on the internal level. In December, a former president of Botswana was appointed to mediate the talks. On 20 December representatives of the different opposition movements met in Kabale, Uganda, and agreed to present a common front, while making clear that they remained distinct organizations.

The consequences of the conflict were devastating for civilians. The security situation remained precarious throughout the country all year long. Many people had to abandon their lands and means of survival to seek shelter with relatives or live in organized camps. In these places, accommodation was often hazardous or unsuitable, there was no access to clean water, hygiene conditions were poor and medical facilities hard to reach. The full number of displaced was unknown but estimated in the hundreds of thousands.

* SADC: Southern African Development Community

civilians in distress

*security constraints restrict
ICRC movements*

*visits to POWs, internees
and detainees*

Furthermore, a year of intense conflict coupled with the country's long-term socio-economic decline found the population increasingly impoverished and less and less able to meet its daily needs. The infrastructure, including communication links, electricity, water distribution systems and health care, was in a state of total disrepair. The disruption of internal trade routes hampered the delivery of vital food-stuffs to the west of the country, causing hardship and deprivation for many people and sending prices soaring. Harsh economic measures, such as the banning of foreign currency transactions, progressively suffocated the economy, especially in the capital, where many foreign companies laid off staff.

In most cities, the economic situation was compounded by acute localized emergencies as a direct result of the war, such as population displacements, refugee movements from Angola or the Republic of the Congo, food shortages and epidemics. Often, coping mechanisms were overburdened by the presence of hundreds of thousands of displaced people and, indirectly, the fighting hampered agricultural activity and the proper functioning of local economies.

Security constraints remained one of the main obstacles to the conduct of humanitarian operations. The ICRC worked within a limited geographical radius, generally concentrating on the main urban centres. It maintained a presence in Kinshasa, Lubumbashi, Goma, Bukavu, Kisangani and, from October, in Bunia, and made regular trips to Kalémié, Kindu, Beni and Uvira. For other, less accessible areas, the ICRC relied heavily on the Red Cross of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and its network to assess needs and distribute assistance.

In accordance with the Third Geneva Convention, the ICRC visited POWs held on Congolese territory, and the relevant authorities were notified of their whereabouts. Confidential reports on the POWs' treatment and material conditions of detention were submitted to the Detaining Powers. Where necessary, and after the authorities had been made aware of their responsibilities in this respect, the ICRC provided the POWs with food, medicines and other assistance. It also visited POWs of various nationalities held on the territory of other countries party to the conflict in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.¹⁶ Again in accordance with the Third Geneva Convention, the ICRC organized several repatriations of seriously ill POWs.

The Lusaka accord contained a specific mention of the ICRC with regard to provisions governing POWs and other persons detained in connection with the conflict. On 27 October the ICRC submitted a memorandum to the nine signatories of the accord, reminding them of their obligations with respect to persons deprived of their freedom and protected by the Geneva Conventions and of the provisions of humanitarian law with regard to deceased and missing persons.

The ICRC also visited security detainees in the "Centre pénitencier et de rééducation" in Kinshasa and places of detention in Katanga province. The poor material conditions of detention prompted it to initiate assistance programmes. Projects were implemented to provide a reliable water supply and to improve cooking facilities and sanitary installations. In eastern areas under RCD control, regular visits to persons deprived of their freedom were carried out in North Kivu, South Kivu, Oriental Province and Tanganyika district (Katanga province). With the expansion of ICRC activities in areas previously off-limits to the organization, places of detention were visited for the

¹⁶ See pp. 91, 97, 104 and 106.

Red Cross message network

large-scale relief programmes

first time in Bunia, Kisangani, Kalémié, Uvira, Beni and Goma. All detainees received basic assistance, and health delegates ensured that they had access to medical care and, where necessary, provided the authorities with dispensary kits. Repairs and renovation work to hygiene systems were carried out in the central prisons of Goma, Bukavu and Uvira.

In addition, the ICRC visited civilian internees protected by the Fourth Geneva Convention and persons arrested because of their ethnic origin or allegedly held for their own security. The ICRC regularly supplied them with food and other assistance, as well as medicines and medical materials, and carried out an assessment of their nutritional condition. Particular attention was paid to the needs of interned women and children. Visits were also conducted to some 500 civilians held in Katanga province, including both Congolese and foreign nationals interned in various locations. People who so wished were repatriated/transferred to their country of origin.

The ICRC remained in regular contact with the Congolese authorities concerning the protection of civilians from Rwanda, Uganda and Burundi living in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and for Congolese citizens of Rwandan origin. In accordance with the provisions of the Third and Fourth Geneva Conventions, the governments of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Rwanda and Burundi agreed to allow Rwandan and Burundian internees, as well as Congolese nationals with a direct family link in one of these countries, to be transferred to Rwanda or Burundi. In accordance with the Fourth Geneva Convention, the ICRC as a neutral intermediary organized the repatriation/transfer of the internees in June and July, ensuring that those who voluntarily agreed to leave were allowed to travel.

The ICRC developed the main means of contact for families dispersed by the conflict and arranged for unaccompanied Congolese and Rwandan children to be reunited with their parents. A Red Cross message network, comprising more than 60 tracing offices run by National Society volunteers under the supervision of the ICRC, was set up in numerous locations around the country.

In the east of the country, civilians continued to be displaced. For the most part, they were housed by local residents, while a number of them returned to their fields by day. The ICRC provided them with supplementary food assistance and ad hoc half rations.

Food supply lines to Kinshasa became increasingly difficult because of the general insecurity, the disruption of supply mechanisms, the loss of means of transport and military obstacles. As a result many Kinshasa residents started to grow their own food. The main problems they encountered were lack of seeds and tools, high prices and restricted opportunities for trade. Through a project managed by the ICRC in cooperation with the FAO,* vegetable kits and gardening implements were distributed to vulnerable families in the most destitute districts of Kinshasa (Mont Ngafula, Kimbanseke and Massina), who were willing to develop small-scale vegetable production.

The civilian population's state of health deteriorated steadily as a result of the conflict. The economic slowdown, large numbers of destitute displaced people and high costs of treating the war-wounded made it increasingly difficult for the health system to respond adequately to needs. Outbreaks of severe diarrhoeal diseases, measles and malaria put an additional strain on health facilities.

* FAO: United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization

precarious health situation

The main referral hospital in Kinshasa had to handle large influxes of war-wounded from around the capital. The ICRC completed major rehabilitation work on the wards and the pumping house capacity was increased. In the main towns of the Kivu provinces, around 20 health centres, mainly treating patients for illnesses such as malaria, respiratory tract infections, worms and diarrhoea, were supplied with basic medicines and training manuals. A health centre in Kindu was transformed into a permanent referral structure, with the capacity to admit 30 patients and perform surgery.

Water and sanitation projects continued on both sides of the front line. The rehabilitation of the water-treatment plant in Kinshasa signified improved access to clean water for 60 to 80 per cent of the population.

aid for flood victims

In December heavy rains caused the Congo river and one of its tributaries, the Ndjili, to burst their banks, resulting in extensive flooding in low-income residential districts of Kinshasa and displacing some 40,000 people. The ICRC, working with the Federation, the Red Cross of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Belgian Red Cross, launched a relief operation to assist the victims by supporting dispensaries treating displaced people, treating and distributing drinking water and establishing a temporary health structure at the Kinshasa General Hospital for the treatment of water-borne diseases such as cholera.

The ICRC maintained a constant dialogue with the Congolese authorities, especially with regard to the inclusion of humanitarian law in the Draft Constitution of the Third Republic and the ratification by the government of Protocol II additional to the Geneva Conventions.

*military main thrust
for dissemination*

A number of approaches were made to high-level members of the armed forces, the Defence Ministry, General Secretariat and General Chief-of-Staff in order to promote the introduction of systematic teaching of humanitarian law in military training. For the first time since the change of government, in June the ICRC held a four-day seminar for 155 senior armed forces officers.

In the east, contacts were forged with the Department of Military Activities, the Department of Mobilization and Propaganda and the Department for Conflict Resolution and National Reconciliation, as well as with the MLC, to raise awareness of humanitarian law.

A unique event took place on 13 November, when a dissemination session held in Bunia was attended by 30 members of different ethnic groups, including the warring Hema and Lendu tribes. The session was considered a success and similar events were requested.

IN 1999 THE ICRC:



- visited a total of 5,768 people detained in connection with the conflict and held in various locations; these included 103 POWs of various nationalities detained in Kinshasa and Kisangani and 90 POWs held in neighbouring countries involved in the Congolese conflict; 4,390 former combatants and security detainees in Kinshasa, Lubumbashi and the RCD-held areas of Goma, Bukavu, Kalémié, Bunia, Beni, Kisangani and Uvira; and 1,185 civilian internees and civilians detained for their own security, whether Congolese or foreign nationals;
- in June and July, participated in the voluntary repatriation/transfer of 483 Rwandan and Burundian internees from the Democratic Republic of the Congo to Rwanda and Burundi;
- assisted in the repatriation of 9 POWs released for humanitarian reasons;
- offered all categories of detainees the possibility to communicate with their families throughout the country and abroad via Red Cross messages;
- provided 646 tonnes of food and 64 tonnes of material assistance, including blankets, soap and plates, and basic medical supplies to detainees in all places of detention visited, and distributed milk powder, games, schoolbooks and reading books for children in internment camps;
- in Kinshasa and Lubumbashi, organized a therapeutic feeding programme for 435 severely malnourished detainees;
- carried out renovation work to make clean water available in central prisons in Goma, Bukavu and Uvira and other permanent places of detention;



- evacuated 6 Angolan nationals from Kisangani to Luanda and notified the authorities of cases of foreigners in need of protection;



- exchanged 48,398 Red Cross messages on behalf of family members separated by the conflict;
- registered 567 unaccompanied Congolese children and reunited 276 with their families;
- assisted child soldiers receiving medical treatment in Kisangani, helped them restore family links by means of Red Cross messages and, following their demobilization, reunited them with their families;
- received 566 tracing requests and located 322 people;
- issued 871 travel documents for children and adults travelling abroad;

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- in cooperation with the FAO, distributed vegetable kits, watering cans and gardening implements to 11,000 vulnerable families in Kinshasa to enable them to undertake small-scale vegetable production;
- in Lubumbashi, provided monthly assistance to some 3,600 people who had fled from the areas of Kalémié and North Katanga in October 1998 and settled in 5 sites;
- provided 2,867 tonnes of food and 419 tonnes of non-food assistance to 161,000 internally displaced people in North and South Kivu and 625 tonnes of food and 13 tonnes of material assistance to 3,600 displaced people in Katanga;
- following inter-tribal fighting in the Bunia region, assisted some 15,000 people with half-rations of food and non-food kits;
- provided start-up kits and seeds to displaced people returning to settle in the Masisi region to enable them to start up agricultural production;
- distributed monthly food and ad hoc material assistance to two transit centres for 378 unaccompanied children or war orphans;
- supplied food, soap and medicines to some 300 refugees from the Republic of the Congo settled in one site in the Bas-Congo region;
- between May and September, regularly supplied food and medicines to 2 nutrition centres in Goma and Kalémié treating 423 severely malnourished children;
- organized a relief programme (sanitation and material assistance) for 25,000 people affected by the flooding in December, and repaired the dike on the Ndjili river;



- in government-controlled areas, supplied 10 referral hospitals and 30 health centres in locations where displaced people had gathered with essential drugs and surgical materials;
- in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo, supplied drugs and medical materials to 6 hospitals, 17 health centres and 2 nutritional centres, between them serving a population of more than 2 million, and maintained or repaired surgical and medical equipment;
- during fighting in Kisangani, together with Red Cross volunteers, evacuated the war-wounded to hospitals, provided 1 tonne of relief aid and supplied some 20 medical facilities with essential drugs;
- helped clean the military hospital in Kokolo camp, improved the water-storage capacity and repaired the electricity supply to essential services;
- trained health workers from Kalémié, Kisangani and Kivu health zones in the treatment of war injuries;
- in November, initiated a food-for-work scheme in 4 hospitals in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo as an incentive for health staff;



- in the Kalembe-Lembe workshop, run jointly by the ICRC and the National Society, produced an average of 30 prostheses a month and fitted amputees with artificial limbs;

CENTRAL AFRICA DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO



- carried out 14 projects to improve the water supply mostly in urban but also in some rural areas, including well digging, spring protection and the installation of water-distribution points;
- assisted the REGIDESO* in maintaining the production of treated drinking water at the Ndjili and Likunga stations and supplied water-treatment chemicals so that clean water could be provided to more than 80 % of Kinshasa's 6 million inhabitants;
- completed work on the Kimilolo pumping station in Lubumbashi, increasing water-production capacity by 20 %, and installed a 12km-long power line to the pumping station in Likasi, increasing capacity by 10,000 m³;
- constructed 85 water fountains in Lubumbashi and Likasi to ensure access to clean water for 200,000 people;
- in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo, ran 38 safe-water projects for a total population of 2,600,000 people and regularly supplied the REGIDESO with water-treatment chemicals in 11 major cities according to needs;
- undertook major projects to improve the water supply in Bukavu and Kisangani and resumed work on the urban water supply in Bunia (suspended since August 1998 for security reasons);
- completely renovated the sanitary facilities and sewage system in five wards of the main referral hospital in Kinshasa, as well as the hospital's incinerator building, equipment and water-pumping station, enabling the wards to function properly;
- carried out water and sanitation projects in 10 health centres in Kinshasa to ensure a supply of clean water and the disposal of sewage and other waste, including building latrines, sinking wells and laying water pipes;

* REGIDESO: water authority



- contributed to the National Society's running costs and supplemented the salaries of its coordinators at the general secretariat;
- supported Red Cross branches in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo by offering regular financial support to the provincial committees' permanent staff, donating office furniture and providing and furnishing container offices (which were also used as first-aid posts) for section committees;
- trained 643 first-aid volunteers, held 8 emergency-preparedness workshops for 209 heads of Red Cross emergency teams, and supplied materials for first-aid activities to 20 section committees;
- trained 79 Red Cross volunteers to carry out tracing work in 45 outposts set up in areas often off-limits to the ICRC, including the collection and distribution of Red Cross messages and the identification of unaccompanied children;
- trained 50 National Society dissemination officers in the promotion of the Movement's principles and activities;
- supplied equipment and materials to National Society teams carrying out a sanitation programme in 16 health facilities in Kinshasa, including regular cleaning, waste disposal and removal, emptying septic tanks and vector control;
- provided trucks, drivers and fuel to the National Society, which was distributing food supplied by the WFP to hospitals and vulnerable and displaced people;
- as the National Society was often called upon to act in particularly dangerous contexts where the ICRC was not always present, trained volunteers and handed over emergency kits containing bandages, tabards, disinfectant, first-aid kits and chalk to section committees;
- provided logistical support to the National Society to help it deal with the aftermath of the fighting in Kisangani in August, where it had been particularly active in the burial of mortal remains and sanitation work;



- conducted dissemination sessions for officers of the armed forces, national police and rapid intervention police;
- gave presentations on the ICRC and its mandate to representatives of NGOs, university students and beneficiaries of ICRC activities;
- in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo, organized dissemination sessions on the Movement and the ICRC's mandate and activities for people from a variety of backgrounds (local ICRC staff, Red Cross volunteers, secondary school students, leaders of children's associations, etc.);
- organized events around the 50th anniversary of the Geneva Conventions, including conferences and meetings for officers from the headquarters of the Congolese armed forces, professors and students from the faculty of law of Kinshasa University, and representatives from the media and the international community; set up stands jointly with the National Society, which were visited by some 4,000 people;
- in August and September organized a Red Cross exhibition, visited by 6,700 people at the National Fair in Kinshasa.

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REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO



ICRC delegation

escalating violence

The spiral of armed violence that began in 1998¹⁷ continued into 1999. Efforts by government forces to regain control in the south-west of the country and southern Brazzaville failed, and heavy fighting and shelling broke out again in January. Government militias and armed forces loyal to the President clashed with opposition militias in the Pool region and in the Niari, Bouenza and Lékoumou prefectures. In the south-west, Dolisie, the country's third largest city, was attacked by opposition militias in January and all of its 80,000 inhabitants fled. In May an armed group managed to penetrate into the northern districts of the capital. As the year progressed, however, government forces aided by the Angolan troops that had been instrumental in bringing the President to power in 1997 regained control of towns in the Pool region and west of the country, including Dolisie and Nkayi.

The government at first steadfastly rejected any peace negotiations with the opposition. In August, however, after the successful staging of a pan-African music festival, it marked the 39th anniversary of independence by announcing an amnesty for all those who handed in their weapons and renounced violence. This was fol-

¹⁷ See the ICRC's 1998 Annual Report, pp. 73-79.

CENTRAL AFRICA REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

tentative steps towards peace

lowed by "talks on talks" with members of the opposition in exile. On 16 November the government and certain opposition commanders signed a cease-fire in Pointe-Noire. Although several hundred fighters took advantage of the amnesty offered under the truce, conflict continued in the west of the country and in the north-west of the Pool region.

A new accord between the government and the rebels was signed on 29 December in Brazzaville in the presence of the President of Gabon. On this occasion, the agreement was recognized by the exiled opposition leaders and contained more specific references to an amnesty for people handing in their weapons and plans for demobilization of the militias and their integration into the army or civilian life.

Some 200,000 people were displaced from the south of Brazzaville at the end of 1998. About 25,000 to 30,000 of them found refuge in sites in northern Brazzaville, sheltering in public buildings, schools and churches. The sites suffered from overcrowding, minimal hygiene and poor access to clean water. In addition, fighting in the Pool region in December 1998 and January 1999 drove tens of thousands into the forests north of the railway line. Little was known of their plight, as large tracts of these areas remained beyond anyone's control, and the lack of security made it impossible for humanitarian organizations to reach them. Flooding in the north, which had been relatively free of conflict, led to the displacement of 10,000 people in November.

From early May improved security in southern Brazzaville encouraged the steady return of displaced people from the sites in the northern sector, although districts south of the river remained largely uninhabited. The systematic looting and damage caused to houses and the medical infrastructure in Brazzaville meant that many returnees found themselves homeless or without access to basic health care.

Meanwhile people began to re-emerge from the forests. They were joined by others from towns and villages in Pool fleeing the insecurity and deprivations caused by the conflict. All arrived in the capital on foot, on trucks organized by humanitarian organizations or, in September, by train, filling the camps for displaced people previously occupied by Brazzaville residents. Many were in a pitiful state, underfed and bearing harrowing tales of robbery, rape and violence. Some, too sick or malnourished to complete the journey, died before reaching safety.

Almost all NGOs and humanitarian organizations withdrew from the Republic of the Congo in December 1998, but began to return gradually at the beginning of the year. The components of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement remained throughout the troubles and worked together to contain the worst effects of the conflict. The ICRC, assisted by volunteers of the Congolese Red Cross, who in turn were supported and trained by the Federation, carried out emergency operations for war-wounded, displaced people and returnees.

The ICRC was able to work in Brazzaville and Pointe-Noire and made occasional visits to Dolisie and Nkayi. The rest of the country remained inaccessible for most of the year. The full range of ICRC activities was limited by the precarious security situation, which put at risk both staff and supplies. From November improved security made it possible for humanitarian organizations to begin assistance programmes for the civilian population in the south of Pool.

*displaced people
endure terrible suffering*

*Movement works
together in Brazzaville*

massive aid for displaced

health facilities overstretched

*visits to detainees:
patient efforts pay off*

Red Cross message link

During the worst of the conflict, the ICRC developed regular contacts with high-level military authorities, enabling it to intervene rapidly in Brazzaville. Outside Brazzaville, however, the chain of command was more fragmented and the militias loyal to a variety of warlords were difficult to identify, making it hard to obtain the necessary security guarantees.

The ICRC carried out large-scale relief operations for displaced people from Brazzaville and later in the year for those converging on the capital from other parts of the country. With the help of Congolese Red Cross volunteers, the ICRC distributed food, partly donated by the WFP, and non-food assistance, partly supplied by the Federation, to displaced people and returnees whose homes in Brazzaville had been damaged.

As the numbers of displaced people grew, the ICRC established two new sites to receive them, one in Brazzaville and one on the outskirts, complete with their own health posts. Construction of the sites involved rehabilitating 25 existing structures, erecting 85 community-sized bamboo and tarpaulin tents, establishing drinking water points, digging latrines and building showers. Sanitation teams made up of Red Cross volunteers were set up and trained to maintain acceptable hygiene levels through continuous cleaning, disinfection and health-awareness campaigns.

The number of war-wounded and displaced people in the capital placed a heavy burden on existing health services, and many health centres had been looted of all medicines. Most of the war-wounded in Brazzaville were referred to the military hospital or the university hospital. The ICRC supported these facilities, regularly supplying them, as well as hospitals in Talangai and health centres and dispensaries serving displaced people, with drugs and medical materials. Alarmed at the nutritional condition of returnees from the Pool area, the ICRC opened a feeding centre in May that served a weekly average of 700 malnourished people.

Access to clean water and adequate hygiene conditions for the displaced people was of critical importance. Water was delivered by truck, and bladder tanks were installed in the camps, feeding centres, hospitals and institutions housing vulnerable people. Cleaning materials were distributed and latrines constructed. Water-distribution systems in Brazzaville also required repair and rehabilitation. In addition, the ICRC provided technical know-how and materials to the SNDE* to enable it to ensure a sufficient and clean water supply for the displaced and resident populations.

On 12 November, following two years of negotiations interrupted at times by outbreaks of fighting, the government signed an agreement authorizing the ICRC to visit people deprived of their freedom. After further discussions were held with the Ministries of Justice, Defence and the Interior, visits began at the end of the year to places of detention in accordance with the ICRC's customary procedures.

A Red Cross message network was developed to offer a communication link between Congolese living abroad and their families in Brazzaville and Pointe-Noire. Later in the year, as the security situation improved, the service was extended to parts of the Pool prefecture. The ICRC registered children separated from their parents during the violence and initiated a search for their families. The national radio station was present when the 100th unaccompanied child was reunited with his relatives and took the opportunity to broadcast the names of the remaining children, which led

* SNDE : national water board

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*brutality against
civilians commonplace*

Dissemination Commission set up

to eight more reunifications in the following week. The delegation also continued to exchange Red Cross messages between the Rwandan refugee population and members of their families abroad and to trace the families of unaccompanied Rwandan children.

Civilians were the main victims of the violence. Methods of warfare employed by the parties were often brutal and inhumane; rape was especially widespread. The ICRC reminded the warring parties of their obligation to respect civilians, and insisted on respect for civilians returning to Brazzaville or in camps for the displaced. During dissemination sessions for the armed forces, it emphasized the particular needs of women and children. Other organizations established programmes to provide support and care for victims of sexual violence.

Contacts were maintained with the top military authorities in order to ensure that humanitarian law was included in regular training courses for the armed forces, gendarmerie and police and to raise awareness of the ICRC and humanitarian issues among the military. A Dissemination Commission was set up at the beginning of the year by the Ministry of Defence, with the task of creating teaching programmes and assisting humanitarian law instructors trained by the ICRC at the end of 1998.¹⁸ A dissemination programme for members of police intervention groups and district and traffic police was presented to and accepted by the authorities.

In December, the ICRC commissioned a Congolese professor of humanitarian law to carry out a three-month study on the implementation of humanitarian law in the Republic of the Congo.

Various events were organized around the 50th anniversary of the Geneva Conventions, including a press conference and dissemination sessions in Brazzaville and Owando for law students, Red Cross volunteers and ICRC employees.

¹⁸ See the ICRC's 1998 Annual Report, pp. 75 and 79.

IN 1999 THE ICRC:



- following authorization from the government, visited 3 places of detention under the responsibility of the Ministries of Justice and Defence;



- constantly reminded the authorities and the warring parties of their obligation to respect the civilian population;



- exchanged 3,392 Red Cross messages on behalf of Congolese displaced people and Rwandan refugees and their relatives abroad;
- registered 187 unaccompanied Congolese children and reunited 155 with their relatives (the figures are totals since the onset of hostilities in 1998); registered a total of 302 unaccompanied Rwandan children from the time of the arrival of Rwandan refugees in the country and reunited 30 with their relatives (123 were in contact with their families in Rwanda through Red Cross messages);



- with the support of the Congolese Red Cross, provided more than 120,000 displaced people in 4 sites in Brazzaville with 116.4 tonnes of food, partly supplied by the WFP, and 1,738 tonnes of material assistance, partly supplied by the Federation; erected tents and tarpaulin structures to temporarily house 4,000 displaced people in Brazzaville, Mafouta and Matsimou;
- carried out a one-week distribution of food for 40,000 people returning from the Pool region in May;
- distributed 121 tonnes of material assistance (kitchen sets, tarpaulins, jerrycans, blankets and soap) to ease the return of some 7,000 people whose homes had been destroyed in districts of Brazzaville;
- managed a therapeutic feeding centre for malnourished displaced children and adults;
- supplied regular food aid to malnourished children in camps for the displaced;
- provided 1,746 tonnes of food supplies to some 25,000 vulnerable people in Brazzaville, with the support of the Congolese Red Cross;



- supplied medicines and medical materials and equipment to Brazzaville's 3 main hospitals, which treated a total of 1,803 war-wounded, and to 10 health centres and dispensaries serving displaced people;
- provided the services of a war surgeon for one month to train local surgeons in war-surgery techniques at the military hospital in Brazzaville, to which most war-wounded were referred;
- evacuated war-wounded and emergency medical cases to various hospitals in Brazzaville;
- rehabilitated 2 health posts in Malibu and Sangolo which were badly damaged in the fighting;
- until March, removed corpses from the street for burial; this activity was subsequently handed over to the authorities along with chemicals and materials (lime, chlorine, blankets, gloves and masks) to enable them to carry out the operation hygienically;

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- in Brazzaville, built and equipped 2 new complete sites to accommodate up to 16,000 displaced people at Matsimou and Mafouta and oversaw their management;
- installed 12 bladder tanks in 6 sites and 2 hospitals for a total capacity of 75,000 litres of water;
- distributed 3.5 million litres of water by water truck to 8 camps, 2 feeding centres, 2 hospitals and 4 institutions for vulnerable groups (handicapped and elderly people);
- to improve hygiene conditions in sites for displaced people, dug 24 pit latrines and emptied existing latrines by vacuum truck, collected 600 m³ of refuse and built 12 showers;
- supplied chemicals and equipment to the SNDE in Brazzaville and Pointe-Noire to enable it to maintain minimal water quality;
- repaired 2 water installations damaged during the conflict in 1997 and 1998-99, the Owando pumping station in the north and the Djambala pumping station;
- began work on the complete rehabilitation of the Nkayi and Dolisie water-treatment plants, serving populations of 40,000 and 50,000, respectively;



- every week, involved 85 Congolese Red Cross volunteers, supported and trained by the Federation, in various emergency programmes, including tracing, medical, relief and water supply and sanitation activities;
- held training courses for 523 Red Cross volunteers working in emergency operations in Brazzaville;



- in mid-January, held a dissemination session for 450 cadets of the Marien Ngouabi military academy and donated a set of books on humanitarian law to the academy;
- introduced some 900 recruits, soldiers and officers of the Congolese armed forces to the basic principles of humanitarian law and the ICRC's mandate through dissemination sessions in training centres and military bases in Pointe-Noire, Ouessou and Impfondo;
- with the permanent Dissemination Commission, organized courses on humanitarian law for more than 700 officers and soldiers;
- carried out dissemination sessions for more than 850 policemen in Brazzaville;
- carried out ad hoc dissemination sessions and distributed soldier's manuals at checkpoints manned by government soldiers or militiamen;
- strengthened contacts with the local and international press through interviews and regular press releases on the ICRC's and the Movement's activities.

CENTRAL AFRICA RWANDA

RWANDA

PROTECTION

11,243,799

ASSISTANCE

19,339,237

PREVENTIVE ACTION

1,383,662

COOPERATION WITH THE NATIONAL SOCIETY

34,307

OVERHEADS

2,414,232

GENERAL

1,364,411

TOTAL EXPENDITURE Sfr 35,779,648



○ ICRC delegation ○ ICRC sub-delegation + ICRC office ○* ICRC sub-delegation for NE region

In 1999, the transitional government embarked on a policy of national reconciliation, with the aim of solving some of the population's basic problems, by focusing on the skills and responsibilities of the local authorities. It also stepped up its fight against corruption and bad management at different levels in an effort to demonstrate to the Rwandan people and the international community that no one is above the law. In March, local elections took place for the first time since the 1994 genocide.¹⁹ The whole operation went ahead smoothly and without incident throughout the country.

Measures were taken to reintroduce a traditional, local form of justice known as "gachacha", which works on the principle of reconciling the parties and promoting social harmony rather than penalizing the guilty party. Meanwhile, trials of persons accused of taking part in the genocide continued at a slow pace. Following a procedural decision by the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, based in Arusha, Tanzania, to release a former Rwandan government official accused of war crimes, Rwanda temporarily suspended its cooperation with the Tribunal.

¹⁹ See the ICRC's 1994 Annual Report, pp. 53-54.

security situation looking up

*overcrowding still
a problem in prisons*

Rwandan troops remained present in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo throughout the year. The peace agreement signed on 10 July²⁰ made specific reference to Rwanda's security problems. In August, Ugandan and Rwandan troops became embroiled in a two-day confrontation in Kisangani in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.²¹ Following high-level talks, the dispute was resolved and a cease-fire signed between the two traditional allies.

Provinces in north-western Rwanda (in particular, Ruhengeri and Gisenyi prefectures), which had been the scene of clashes between the armed opposition and government forces in previous years, regained a measure of stability in 1999. One of the methods employed by the authorities to improve security in these regions was to prevail upon the local population to resettle in "safer" villages away from their homes and fields. Nonetheless, according to official military sources, in late December a group of Interahamwe militiamen succeeded in penetrating into north-western Rwanda, killing 29 people and injuring many others, in what was the first incident of its kind in more than a year.

The generally improved security situation enabled the ICRC to return progressively to certain communes previously off-limits to the organization in the prefectures of Gitarama, Gikongoro and Cyangugu. In these places, delegates met the authorities and went to communal lock-ups ("cahots") that had not been visited for up to two years. An ICRC expatriate was permanently stationed in the north-west town of Ruhengeri in early June.

The ICRC's main task in Rwanda remained its work in places of detention and visits to detainees accused of participating in the genocide. Some releases and new arrests occurred during the year, but overall the number of detainees showed a slight decline. However, the number of detainees visited by the ICRC in civilian prisons, communal lock-ups, "brigades de gendarmerie" and military camps remained particularly high. Overcrowding was still a major problem, and the prison infrastructure inappropriate for the number of prisoners. Material conditions in the central prisons, which had been improving, deteriorated again in some prisons owing to the transfer of dozens, sometimes hundreds, of detainees from other prisons, undertaken in view of the future establishment of the "gachacha" tribunals throughout the country. Despite some improvements, the situation in the lock-ups was still largely inadequate, with lack of food and medical care and poor hygiene conditions continuing to undermine health.

In October the ICRC submitted a confidential report on its detention-related activities to the highest authorities in Rwanda. The report covered the ICRC's visits to 168 places of detention between January 1997 and February 1999 and summarized its observations and recommendations relating to the treatment and general material conditions of detainees.

Following negotiations with the relevant authorities, the ICRC regained access to places of detention under the responsibility of the "gendarmerie" and continued to make representations to the relevant authorities so as to be able to make more regular and frequent visits to all detention facilities under the responsibility of the army.

The ICRC kept up the delivery of food to civilian prisons to supplement rations provided by the authorities, undertook repairs and renovations to prisons and lock-

²⁰ See p. 75.

²¹ See pp. 74-75.

children looking for their parents

*assistance to hospitals
scaled down*

*long-term and "quick impact"
water and sanitation projects*

ups, and distributed medicines to prison dispensaries, hospitals and health centres to ensure that detainees received essential medical care.

The ICRC also visited 50 Zimbabwean and Namibian POWs and a South African citizen held in Kigali in connection with the conflict in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.²² In accordance with the provisions of the Third Geneva Convention, three seriously ill POWs were repatriated to Zimbabwe in October under ICRC auspices.

Rwandan nationals arrested in various African countries in connection with the 1994 genocide were visited by the ICRC at the United Nations detention unit of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda in Arusha, Tanzania.²³

The search continued for the families of almost 5,000 unaccompanied children, most of whose cases dated back to 1994. The ICRC carried on the photo-tracing programme for children too young or too traumatized to give information on their families' whereabouts. In addition to three photo albums in circulation with photos of 1,765 children, 100 photos were published in five local newspapers in May. In all, 1,123 children whose photos featured in this way were reunited with their families. Several hundred unaccompanied Rwandan children registered in neighbouring countries (Democratic Republic of the Congo, Tanzania, Republic of the Congo, Uganda and Burundi) were also successfully reunited with their families. Information on unaccompanied children whose relatives could not be traced or who for various socio-economic reasons preferred not to be reunited with their families was handed over to the Ministry of Social Affairs, so that it could take charge of these children in the future.

The ICRC pursued a policy of gradually scaling down its assistance to health facilities. At the end of July, in agreement with the "Frères de la Charité" association, the ICRC ceased its support to the Gatagara prosthetic/orthotic centre, run for three years as a project delegated to the Swiss Red Cross. Support to the Kibuye District Hospital, to which staff had been seconded by the German and Swiss Red Cross Societies, ended in September.

The ICRC continued its programmes to restore or provide a reliable water supply in both urban and rural communities. It also provided technical and material support to the national water, gas and electricity board, Electrogaz, to enable rehabilitation work and other water projects to go ahead throughout Rwanda.

A number of "quick impact" projects were also carried out, targeting the most vulnerable members of the population, such as orphans and widows, and hospitals and other sanitary infrastructure damaged during the events in 1994. The projects consisted of harnessing rainwater, connecting it up to the existing water network, and installing or constructing water tanks, drinking fountains and taps. Tanker-trucks were used when the need for clean water in vulnerable institutions such as health centres and orphanages was particularly pressing, although long-term, sustainable solutions, such as provided for by the "quick impact" projects, were sought to replace this ad hoc emergency method.

Following an evaluation of the micro-projects carried out for survivors of the genocide and massacres over the past five years, the ICRC decided to concentrate on agro-pastoral projects which promote food production and, to some extent,

²² See pp. 76-77.

²³ See pp. 148 and 151.

humanitarian law and principles

income generation at the household level, since these appeared to have reaped the greatest benefits.

The ICRC continued to build on its policy of integrating dissemination into the everyday tasks of all delegates in Rwanda. In addition, it focused on promoting humanitarian law to specific target groups, notably prison guards, low-ranking officials and the beneficiaries of micro-projects.

An awareness programme for members of the armed forces got under way in January, including a first-aid component for military doctors. The number of sessions for RPA* members was also stepped up. Potential future RPA trainers were identified and discussions on a new draft RPA Code of Conduct continued. After a two-year absence from Ruhengeri, on 18 and 19 May the ICRC was able to make a presentation on humanitarian law for 48 RPA officers in training at the "Ecole de gendarmerie nationale".

The latter part of the year saw the creation in certain prefectures of communal defence forces, who were given weapons and trained in their use. For the first time, the ICRC was given the opportunity of holding dissemination sessions for these armed civilians in Butare and Cyangugu, during which particular emphasis was placed on respect for the emblem, the wounded and civilians.

To mark the 50th anniversary of the Geneva Conventions, the ICRC sponsored and took part in a two-day sub-regional symposium on humanitarian law organized in Butare by the National University of Rwanda. The symposium was attended by professors from the universities of Goma, Bukavu and Bujumbura, as well as military and civil authorities.

Cooperation activities with the Rwandan Red Cross were limited as the National Society was undergoing restructuring. A new General Secretary was appointed in November. Meanwhile, Rwandan Red Cross volunteers continued to participate in joint activities with the ICRC, in particular dissemination events.

* RPA: Rwandan Patriotic Army

IN 1999 THE ICRC:



- visited 116,589 detainees (8,848 for the first time) in 168 places of detention, including prisons, lock-ups, "brigades de gendarmerie" and military detention camps;
- visited 51 POWs in the hands of the Rwandan authorities as a result of the war in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and interned in Kigali; enabled them to correspond with their families through Red Cross messages;
- in accordance with the Geneva Conventions, assisted in the repatriation of 475 civilians from the Democratic Republic of the Congo to Rwanda;
- provided 11,399 tonnes of food to detainees in civilian prisons and detainees in a military prison to supplement their regular government-supplied rations; supplied Nutriset-enriched milk to severely malnourished detainees and carried out Body Mass Index tests to assess inmates' nutritional condition;
- distributed 321 tonnes of material assistance (mainly hygiene products) and basic medical supplies to detainees;
- carried out repairs and renovation work to kitchens, firewood shelters, prison cells, sewers, waste-water and rainwater drainage systems to counter unhealthy conditions of detention;



- exchanged 19,965 Red Cross messages, of which 9,339 were between detainees and their families;
- reunited 1,610 unaccompanied children with their relatives, bringing the total to 67,922 family reunifications carried out, together with other organizations, since 1994; repatriated 670 unaccompanied children from neighbouring countries to be reunited with their families;



- provided 446 tonnes of food and 48 tonnes of non-food items to vulnerable groups, including survivors of the genocide and displaced people;
- supported 135 micro-projects giving vital assistance to approximately 13,500 vulnerable survivors of the genocide and massacres to enable them to rebuild their lives;
- paid the school fees and provided school materials for 2,000 orphans from the genocide and massacres in all prefectures so that they could attend secondary school;
- provided food and kitchen sets to 1,280 widows and orphans through AVEGA* and ad hoc food assistance to some 200 orphans;



- until late September, supplied medicines and medical materials to the Kibuye District Hospital and provided the services of an expatriate medical/surgical team, in close cooperation with the German and Swiss Red Cross Societies; between January and September, the hospital admitted 624 patients, performed 985 operations and carried out 5,477 outpatient consultations;

* AVEGA: "Association des veuves du génocide d'avril"

CENTRAL AFRICA RWANDA



- from January to June, through a project delegated to the Swiss Red Cross, supported the Gatagara prosthetic/orthotic centre, which during that period fitted 31 amputees, produced 31 prostheses and 236 orthoses and manufactured 4 wheelchairs and 368 pairs of crutches;



- in Kigali town, finished rehabilitating the Rwampara and Kimisange pumping stations, constructed 3 water tanks, laid 6.5 km of pipeline and installed and connected 50 distribution points for the benefit of 25,000 people, including Gikondo prison;
- rehabilitated the spring catchment system in Kibungo and laid an additional pipeline between the springs and the treatment station, increasing the quantity of water provided from 550 m³ to 900 m³ a day for an estimated population of 41,000 people;
- increased the capacity of the main water tank in Gikondo from 50 m³ to 150 m³ for the benefit of around 10,000 recipients;
- carried out 30 "quick impact" projects for 9 orphanages, 6 health centres, a widows' village and 13 communal lock-ups;
- trucked a total of 2 million m³ of water to 3 health centres, 4 orphanages, 6 widows' villages and other vulnerable institutions;
- in accordance with a Memorandum of Understanding signed with the Ministry of Justice, organized a week-long seminar in Kigali in April for ministry technicians in order to enhance their engineering skills;



- conducted dissemination sessions for 58,896 people, including arms bearers, representatives of the authorities and civil society, prison authorities, detainees, health staff, National Society volunteers, local ICRC staff, young people and the general public;
- organized an eight-week first-aid training course, the first of its kind for the ICRC, attended by 67 RPA medics and students, with the participation of 8 national trainers from the Rwandan Red Cross; followed this up with a second course towards the end of the year for 62 RPA first-aid staff; held a three-day war-surgery seminar for 15 military doctors in August;
- arranged 71 performances of the play "The Reunificator" for audiences totalling 15,082 people throughout the country;
- produced and adapted a range of publications for Rwandan audiences, including a comic strip drawn by a Rwandan artist.

YAOUNDÉ

Regional delegation

(Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, São Tomé and Príncipe)

*visits to detainees
begin in Cameroon*

*elections in the
Central African Republic*

*spillover from the
Congolese conflict*

Cameroon enjoyed relative stability in 1999. There were no further tensions with Nigeria over the Bakassi peninsula, following the repatriation in 1998 of all Nigerian and Cameroonian POWs and civilian internees held in connection with the dispute²⁴ and pending a decision on the issue by the International Court of Justice. A new contender for ownership of the territory presented itself in the form of Equatorial Guinea, without, however, resort to violence. People displaced by the conflict began gradually to return to their homes.

Having received a positive response from the Cameroonian authorities to its offer of services at the end of 1998, the ICRC began visits to all categories of detainees in March. During the first round of visits, it registered some 50 security detainees. It made various representations to the authorities to improve detention conditions and to address the issue of lengthy periods of preventive detention. The ICRC also undertook a water and sanitation programme in some prisons for the benefit of all the inmates.

The ICRC and the Cameroonian government signed a new headquarters agreement on 31 March. The signing ceremony took place in the presence of the Minister of Foreign Affairs and was attended by the national media.

On 8 May, the National Society launched a public campaign on use of the red cross emblem, with the support of the Ministry of Defence, which pledged to ensure respect for the emblem in the future. In addition, weekly radio broadcasts on the Red Cross attracted a wide audience, with listeners sending an average of ten letters a week to the delegation requesting more information. To mark the 50th anniversary of the Geneva Conventions, a workshop on humanitarian law and the Fundamental Principles was organized for 16 journalists, and the ICRC took part in two televised 30-minute talk shows and four documentaries on ICRC activities.

The Central African Republic was still suffering from the trauma of recent violent mutinies and continued its economic slide. Elections took place in September, with the incumbent President re-elected by a small majority. On the day of the elections, the National Society stationed first-aiders at all 50 polling stations, but they were only required to intervene for minor incidents. The opposition contested the result, leading to a climate of tension in the country. In view of this, the mandate of the UN peace-keeping force, MINURCA,* was further extended until February 2000. The Security Council, in its session on 13 October, called on the Central African President to open his government to members of the opposition and to advance the process of national reconciliation.

In August, several thousand refugees from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, among them Congolese troops fleeing the advance of rebel forces, arrived in Mobaye and Bangui. The soldiers were rapidly disarmed and repatriated to Kinshasa, while some 2,100 civilians were grouped in a temporary site in Port Amont. With the help of the ICRC, the Central African Red Cross Society provided assistance to the refugees, built shelters and sanitary installations and set up kitchens serving rice and beans. A further 2,000 refugees were transferred to another camp at Boubou, north of the capital, where one hundred Red Cross volunteers, trained by the ICRC in habitat, water and sanitation techniques and equipped for the purpose, dug latrines and

²⁴ See the ICRC's 1998 Annual Report, p. 86.

* MINURCA: United Nations Mission In the Central African Republic

*promotion of humanitarian law
and values*

troubles persist in parts of Chad

*visits resume to detainees
in Equatorial Guinea*

Gabon National Society recognized

built shelters. Blankets and tarpaulins were also distributed. In addition, a Red Cross message service was established for the refugees in Port Amont and Boubou. When the occupants of the Pont Amont camp were transferred to another location up-country, the ICRC and the National Society monitored the closure of the camp and ensured that humanitarian rules were respected.

The ICRC intensified efforts to rally broader support in the Central African Republic for a proposed national law on the red cross emblem and the Ottawa landmines treaty. In addition, the ICRC continued to work with the National Committee on Humanitarian Law with a view to introducing a sustainable programme on the law of armed conflict for the armed forces. Dissemination sessions were held for the first time outside the capital for 500 officers from the "gendarmérie", police and armed forces.

Chad remained prey to pockets of rebellion in various parts of the country, weakening the power of the central government. The valuable oil fields in the south continued to be a cause of violent confrontation between government forces and local communities. An insurgency in the north led by the former Minister of Defence succeeded in gaining control of a large part of Tibesti province. In the east, in the Ouaddai, while the ANR* had ceased military activity and was awaiting its integration into the national army, the FNTR* continued to be active.

Chadian forces, which had been present in the Democratic Republic of the Congo since 1998 to fight alongside President Kabila, withdrew in May.²⁵ They took with them 27 military and civilian prisoners captured in connection with the conflict. One died following the transfer to N'Djamena, but the ICRC was allowed to visit the remaining 26 regularly and to provide them with assistance. On 24 October, 17 of them were repatriated by ICRC plane to the opposition-held areas of Goma and Kisangani in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The repatriation of the remaining nine awaited authorization from Kinshasa.

At the end of 1999, following a meeting in Paris between the ICRC's Deputy Delegate General for Africa and President Obiang, the ICRC resumed its visits to security detainees in Equatorial Guinea. The visits had been interrupted in March 1998 owing to non-acceptance of the ICRC's customary procedures.²⁶ A first round of visits took place in December to four places of detention in Malabo and Bata.

Following a joint ICRC/Federation mission to Gabon in April, the newly created Gabonese Red Cross Society obtained official recognition as a National Society by the ICRC and the Federation in August and was welcomed as the 176th member of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. In preparation, the ICRC helped to consolidate nine regional chapters. It also strengthened the operational capacity of the branch in Tchibanga, an area faced with an influx of refugees from the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

* ANR: "Alliance nationale de la résistance"

* FNTR: "Front national du Tchad renouvé"

²⁵ See p. 75.

²⁶ See the ICRC's 1998 Annual Report, p. 87.

Geneva Conventions anniversary events

The ICRC and the National Societies of the region produced a range of promotional items and organized a string of events to mark the 50th anniversary of the Geneva Conventions in each country. In Cameroon, the ICRC, the Federation and the National Society took part in the CEMAC* subregional trade fair, during which Red Cross publications and promotional items were distributed. An art competition was launched and prizes awarded to the four best works. In Gabon, a 60-minute talk show was broadcast on the Pan-African radio channel, Africa No. 1, and two national television stations.

* CEMAC: "Communauté économique et monétaire d'Afrique centrale"

IN 1999 THE ICRC:

- in Cameroon, visited 64 detainees in 54 places of detention, and distributed hygiene products (soap, plastic buckets and shovels), medicines and kitchen materials; sponsored the weekly drainage of septic tanks in Douala's central prison;
- visited 27 security detainees held by Chadian forces on the territory of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and in N'Djamena following their transfer in June; participated in the repatriation of 17 detainees to Goma and Kisangani in October;
- in Chad, visited 44 detainees in 3 places of detention and, where necessary, distributed hygiene products and educational items;
- in Equatorial Guinea, visited 72 detainees in 4 places of detention and distributed hygiene products;



- with the support of the relevant National Societies, exchanged 2,266 Red Cross messages on behalf of refugees in the countries of the region;

- through the Central African Red Cross Society, provided material assistance (tarpaulins, blankets, salt, soap, bowls and cooking pots) to 5,000 refugees from the Democratic Republic of the Congo in Pont Amont and Boubou camps;

CENTRAL AFRICA YAOUNDÉ



- provided financial and material support to the region's National Societies, focusing particularly on their respective tracing services and dissemination activities; financed the publication of regular newsletters in Cameroon and Chad;
- supported the organization of training seminars in emergency preparedness and management, restoration of family links and media communication, and habitat for staff and volunteers of 5 of the region's National Societies, with the participation of the Federation;
- trained 56 trainers and 190 volunteers of the region's National Societies in water and sanitation work to enable them to respond to floods;
- in conjunction with the Cameroon Red Cross, conducted a workshop in September for 15 information officers of the region's National Societies;



- continued to promote greater understanding and acceptance of humanitarian law and of the ICRC among various target groups in the region, namely the civilian and military authorities, police, armed forces, various associations, academic circles and the general public;
- promoted the inclusion of humanitarian law in the training programmes of the armed and security forces of the region;
- in January, as part of the follow-up to the "So Why?" campaign, organized a week-end event in Bangui, Central African Republic, to promote tolerance and respect for victims of armed conflict, featuring 50 local performers before an audience of 25,000 people;
- produced programmes on humanitarian law for broadcast on radio and television in Cameroon, focusing on the 50th anniversary of the Geneva Conventions; regularly financed Red Cross radio programmes in Cameroon and Chad, including one in Arabic.

SOUTHERN AFRICA ANGOLA

ANGOLA

PROTECTION

1,280,036

ASSISTANCE

37,206,747

PREVENTIVE ACTION

785,539

COOPERATION WITH THE NATIONAL SOCIETY

8,176

OVERHEADS

2,362,714

GENERAL

1,910,405

TOTAL EXPENDITURE Sfr 43,553,618



ICRC delegation

ICRC sub-delegation

Prosthetic/orthotic centre/workshop

The past year was marked by an intensification in the clashes that had resumed in December 1998 between Angolan government forces and UNITA.^{27*} The fighting, which first affected the Planalto (Huambo and the Kuito region), gradually spread to other provinces in the country. After a long period of stalemate, the Angolan army began to gain ground steadily and then, following an offensive launched in September, took a number of strategic UNITA strongholds, such as Bailundo and Andulo, and the movement's former headquarters, Jamba. Beginning in December, the army also conducted operations against UNITA positions from the territory of Namibia, with the endorsement of the authorities of that country.

The hostilities did not, however, prevent the parties to the conflict from calling for a negotiated settlement to the crisis. In an interview broadcast in August, Jonas Savimbi, the UNITA leader, indicated that he was ready to resume peace talks with the Luanda government. For his part, President Dos Santos insisted on the need for dialogue with UNITA but rejected out of hand any direct negotiations with Jonas Savimbi.

²⁷ See the ICRC's 1998 Annual Report, p. 91.

* UNITA: National Union for the Total Independence of Angola

*increasingly precarious
living conditions*

assistance for the Planalto

seed distribution in Huambo

*representations
in favour of detainees*

On the diplomatic level, the Angolan government severely criticized the international community, a number of specific countries (including Zambia) and the United Nations, accusing them of being responsible for the failure to implement the Lusaka agreement and even of tacitly supporting UNITA. Several international organizations and States condemned UNITA, while the United Nations Security Council reinforced the sanctions already imposed on it. At the request of the Angolan government and the United Nations Secretary-General, the mandate of UNOMA,* which expired on 26 February, was not renewed. In October, the Security Council adopted a resolution authorizing the establishment of a new and smaller structure, UNOA,* for an initial six-month period.

The resumption of hostilities resulted in massive new displacements of the civilian population. In rural areas, these displacements were detrimental to economic activity, particularly in agriculture, with harvests becoming a target for widespread pillaging. The deterioration in security conditions led to a reduction in agricultural production and hindered the movement of staple products, pushing up the cost of food in the markets and increasing the vulnerability of the civilian population to shortages. The humanitarian organizations endeavoured to respond to the new needs created by this situation.

After contacting the parties to the conflict, the ICRC resumed its aid flights to the Planalto in January. Materials such as plastic sheeting, blankets, jerrycans, soap and kitchen utensils were regularly distributed to displaced persons in Huambo and Kuito, where a system to monitor the food requirements of the population had been set up following a medical survey.

In response to the risk of a very short-term food shortage in Huambo, the delegation mobilized considerable logistical resources to implement an agricultural assistance programme, distributing hoes, fertilizer and seed. It also distributed food to enable the beneficiaries to bridge the gap between two harvests. The programme was launched in June, when the irrigated fields bordering the rivers ("nacas") are planted, and covered 54,000 resident or displaced families in the districts and villages on the outskirts of Huambo, the necessary material being flown in by the ICRC. Distributions were continued in August in anticipation of the harvests in the fields relying on rain water ("lavras") and were extended to cover a total of 67,000 displaced and resident families at risk in Huambo province. At the beginning of the year, the ICRC started a parallel programme to assist the war-wounded being cared for in Huambo hospital. The programme was extended in mid-March to all emergency cases being treated by the hospital's surgical and obstetric departments.

Throughout the year, the delegation made various representations to the authorities concerned in order to obtain renewed access to persons detained in connection with the resumption of the internal conflict. However, despite the agreement in principle of the Angolan armed forces Chief-of-Staff, the ICRC was not authorized to resume its activities for detainees in 1999.

As the military situation evolved, the ICRC was gradually able to extend the scope of its operations and to gain access to areas which had hitherto been very unsettled, such as the provinces of Malanje, Uige and Zaire. In many places, however, the pre-

* UNOMA: United Nations Observer Mission in Angola

* UNOA: United Nations Office in Angola

hazardous working conditions

*representation in relation
to the conflict in the Democratic
Republic of the Congo*

*promotion of international
humanitarian law*

prosthetic/orthotic activities

carious security situation prevented the delegation from undertaking any significant action. Moreover, in the absence of the necessary guarantees, the ICRC was unable to resume the activities suspended since December 1998 in UNITA-controlled zones.

Finally, the troubled situation prevailing in Angola restricted the work of the international and humanitarian organizations present in the country and indeed several of them, including the ICRC, were the target of relatively serious incidents. This being the case, the delegation had no choice but to reinforce its security rules and to adapt them regularly to the changing circumstances.

At the end of the year, following the intervention of the Angolan armed forces in the conflict in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the ICRC delivered to the authorities in Luanda and to the other belligerents a second memorandum, reminding them of their obligations under the Geneva Conventions and the Additional Protocols.

Within the framework of its traditional activities, the ICRC continued its efforts to promote international humanitarian law in both civilian and military circles in Angolan society. With the approval of the authorities, it resumed its activities to spread knowledge of humanitarian law among Angolan police officers in Huambo province after an interruption of almost one year. On the other hand, programmes intended for the Angolan armed forces in the field had to be suspended because of the resumption and intensification of the conflict. The delegation also organized two major cultural events on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the Geneva Conventions and the publication of the results of the "People on War" project.²⁸ The events were attended by several hundred people representing the authorities, diplomatic circles, civil society and the international organizations.

During 1999, the ICRC continued to provide artificial limbs for amputees in the prosthetic/orthotic centres in Kuito, Bomba Alta (Huambo) and, from March onwards, Neves Bendinha (Luanda). In addition, the production units of the centres in Bomba Alta and Neves Bendinha continued to manufacture prosthetic/orthotic components. For security reasons, however, the ICRC had to suspend flights bringing in amputees from other provinces for fittings.

²⁸ See pp. 348-350.

IN 1999 THE ICRC:



- took steps to obtain access to 7 Angolan nationals who had been captured by the Namibian armed forces during the events in the Caprivi Strip in August and handed over to the Angolan authorities;
- continued its representations to obtain access to persons arrested in connection with the conflict between the Angolan government and UNITA;



- collected and distributed, in cooperation with the National Society, more than 10,000 Red Cross messages exchanged between Angolan nationals and between refugees and their families abroad;
- resolved 37 tracing requests, with positive results in 26 cases;
- reunited 14 persons with their families;
- carried out 5 family reunifications for children separated from their kin;
- in the context of the conflict in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, repatriated 6 Angolan citizens from Kisangani in November, in application of the Fourth Geneva Convention;



- distributed, wherever possible in cooperation with the National Society, basic necessities (soap, blankets, jerrycans, etc.) to more than 28,000 displaced and resident families in the Huambo and Kuito regions;
- supplied 54,000 resident and displaced families in villages and districts on the outskirts of Huambo with agricultural assistance and food rations for the dry season during a six-month period; started a similar programme for 67,000 families for the rainy season;
- planted 400,000 trees in the Huambo and Kuito regions, in cooperation with the Angolan Ministry of Agriculture and a specialized local institute, within the framework of a reforestation programme designed to provide the resident population with wood and fruit and to stop soil erosion;
- established a seed propagation programme in Huambo;



- delivered medical supplies for the treatment of 200 war-wounded at Malanje hospital and provided the surgical department of this establishment with ad hoc support;
- supplied Huambo hospital with surgical and medical materials, as well as technical support, for the care of around 3,400 patients;
- supplied monthly food aid for 500 patients at Huambo hospital from July onwards;
- conducted primary health care evaluations among displaced populations in Huambo and Kuito;
- starting in June, supplied and supervised 4 primary health care structures on the outskirts of Huambo and a health centre situated in a displaced persons camp in Cuando, working in coordination with the Angolan Ministry of Health;
- provided support for a health centre in a displaced persons camp in Kuito, working in cooperation with the National Society;
- starting in June, supplied medicines to three Angola Red Cross health centres in Uige province;

SOUTHERN AFRICA ANGOLA



- produced 2,016 prostheses and distributed orthotic components to other organizations active in the field of orthotics;
- fitted more than 70 new amputees every month; replaced and repaired prostheses for amputees fitted with limbs earlier;



- coordinated sanitation work and then, at the end of the year, set up a sanitation programme to improve the quality and quantity of drinking water in the camps for displaced persons around the town of Kuito;
- restored the drinking water supply of Huambo hospital;



- provided support and material for activities conducted by the Angola Red Cross to restore and maintain family links in provinces where the ICRC had no permanent presence;



- presented humanitarian law, the Movement and the ICRC to members of the Angolan armed forces and national police (a total of more than 1,600 officers, NCOs* and policemen);
- invited a staff officer to Geneva to take a course on international humanitarian law, with a view to promoting the teaching of this branch of law in the Angolan armed forces;
- promoted the "People on War" project within the framework of activities to mark the 50th anniversary of the Geneva Conventions;



- provided the population of the Huambo region, especially school children, with information on the dangers of anti-personnel mines, through over a hundred shows performed by a troupe of traditional singers and dancers and seen by more than 6,000 people;
- organized a theatrical evening in Luanda in June, in cooperation with UNICEF and the Angolan Mine Clearance Institute, the occasion being associated with an exhibition of photographs relating to anti-personnel mines.

* Non-commissioned officers

HARARE

Regional delegation

(Botswana, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Zambia, Zimbabwe)

cooperation with National Societies

promotion of international humanitarian law

regional repercussions of the conflict in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

Caprivi Strip

The year under review was marked by tensions in Namibia connected with the events in the Caprivi Strip and then, at the end of the year, developments in the situation in Angola. In Malawi, the presidential and parliamentary elections in June were followed by a period of unrest. The economic and social situation also remained difficult for much of the region's population, which was hard hit by the effects of the Aids epidemic.

As in previous years, the ICRC focused its efforts on programmes of cooperation with the region's National Societies. Special attention was devoted to reinforcing their capacity to take action in emergency situations, especially during the elections which took place in various countries in the region (Botswana, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia) in 1999. At the same time, efforts were pursued to provide training for activities to promote humanitarian law and to restore and maintain family links. As well as providing financial or material aid, the ICRC also organized seminars on various topics for the volunteers and staff of the National Societies; some of those seminars were run jointly with the regional delegation of the Federation.

The ICRC also continued to promote awareness of and respect for international humanitarian law in the six countries covered by the Harare regional delegation, targeting such various groups as the authorities, the armed forces and security services, academic circles, the media, NGOs and the general public. The 50th anniversary of the Geneva Conventions presented numerous opportunities in this respect. With regard to dissemination programmes for the armed forces, the ICRC took advantage of its contacts with the SADC* Regional Peacekeeping Training Centre to arrange for teaching of the law of war in the context of events organized by this body. In addition, discussions were continued to encourage the authorities concerned to adopt measures for the implementation of this branch of law and to ratify various humanitarian law treaties.

The ongoing conflict in the Democratic Republic of the Congo continued to have direct repercussions on Namibia and Zimbabwe (which were militarily involved) and on Zambia. The latter not only received thousands of Congolese refugees on its territory but also acted as mediator in the peace negotiations which resulted in the signature of the Lusaka agreement²⁹ in July. In accordance with the Third Geneva Convention, the ICRC, for its part, continued its visits to Rwandan prisoners of war held in Zimbabwe. At the end of the year, the Harare regional delegation submitted a second memorandum³⁰ to the governments of Namibia and Zimbabwe with regard to respect for international humanitarian law in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

In the middle of the year, approximately 500 of the 2,500 people from the Caprivi Strip who had taken refuge in Botswana³¹ were repatriated to Namibia. When these departures met with hostility from refugees who did not want to return, the Botswana security forces intervened and a number of the refugees were arrested. Other refugees were subsequently taken into custody when they tried to leave Botswanan territory by clandestine means. A further repatriation of around 1,000 people took place in the third quarter. During the year, the ICRC made a number of

* SADC: Southern Africa Development Community

²⁹ See p. 75.

³⁰ See the ICRC's 1998 Annual Report, p. 94.

³¹ Ibid.

involvement of Namibia in the conflict in Angola

Post-election unrest in Malawi

tension between Zambia and Angola

visits to the camp where the Namibian refugees were being held in order to assess their situation from the humanitarian point of view.

At the beginning of August, clashes broke out in Caprivi province between members of a secessionist movement and the Namibian army, with casualties on both sides. The ICRC, which was on the spot at the time, supplied medicines sent by the National Society, as well as seeking and obtaining access to the people arrested in connection with these events.

In December, the Angolan conflict spilled over into northern Namibia after the latter allowed Angolan forces to conduct operations against UNITA from its territory. These incidents, which took place in the Kavango region, resulted in casualties and led to people being displaced, especially Angolan refugees. The ICRC visited the area during the same month to assess the humanitarian situation of the people concerned and to obtain access to individuals detained in connection with the events.

In Malawi, violence erupted in June in a number of opposition strongholds following the announcement of the general election results and the re-election of the incumbent president. Buildings, including mosques, were burned down and the police, as well as making a number of arrests, opened fire on the demonstrators. The Malawi Red Cross Society provided first aid and humanitarian assistance to around 60 victims of the unrest. The opposition obtained permission from the High Court to check some of the ballots, but the situation remained tense, and renewed clashes broke out between opposition militants and the police when the president's election victory was confirmed in December.

The beginning of 1999 was marked by tension between Zambia and Angola, with Angola accusing the Zambian government of supporting UNITA. The situation further deteriorated in March when a bomb exploded outside the Angolan embassy in the Zambian capital, killing an employee. Although the tension eased somewhat following discussions held in Swaziland in May between the two countries' defence ministers, the positions of both parties hardened again right at the end of the year when troops were mobilized on either side of the border as a result of the Angolan army's offensive against UNITA.

On the humanitarian level, several thousand Angolan nationals fled to Zambia, seeking refuge from the fighting in their country.

With regard to Zambia's internal situation, 59 of the soldiers who had been charged with taking part in the attempted coup in October 1997 and whose trial began in June 1998³² were sentenced to death in September.

³² See the ICRC's 1998 Annual Report, p. 95.

IN 1999 THE ICRC:



- registered and visited, in August, 110 persons arrested after the events in the Caprivi Strip and being held in three places of detention in Namibia; made two further visits at the end of the year to the persons still detained and, in December, registered 11 new detainees; provided the detainees with recreational materials;
- paid regular visits to 43 Rwandan prisoners of war registered in 1998 and held at the Chegutu airbase in Zimbabwe; in February, visited a 44th Rwandan prisoner of war, wounded and held at the military hospital in Harare; in July, organized the repatriation of one of these prisoners who was freed on medical grounds; provided material assistance to the prisoners;
- gave all of the above-mentioned detainees the opportunity to exchange Red Cross messages with their families;
- continued representations to obtain access to the detainees held by the security services in Zambia;
- took part in a four-day international seminar held in Mozambique in October, dealing with general matters connected with the operation of the prison system;



- provided logistical support and relief materials for the operations carried out by the ICRC in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and in Angola;



- supported Namibia Red Cross training activities with regard to preparation for emergency situations, the restoration of family links and the dissemination of the principles of humanitarian law, especially in the Caprivi region;
- in connection with the conflict in Caprivi, supplied material for and took part in the training of 18 volunteers of the new Kassane branch of the Botswana Red Cross Society;
- assisted the two above-mentioned National Societies to collect and distribute Red Cross messages for persons who were either resident in the Caprivi Strip or had fled the region to take refuge in Botswana;
- assisted the Zambia Red Cross in its activities to restore family links among the refugee populations from Angola and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and helped it to organize a national seminar on tracing techniques and the promotion of humanitarian law;
- in cooperation with the Federation, provided support for the training of and equipment for 210 volunteers of the Malawi Red Cross Society who were to be active in 7 regions of the country;
- financed the dissemination activities of the Mozambique Red Cross at the police academy in Maputo;
- organized a regional tracing workshop in October, which was attended by participants from the National Societies of the countries covered by the Harare regional delegation and from the National Societies of Kenya and Uganda;
- organized, jointly with the Johannesburg Institute for the Advancement of Journalism and the University of Pretoria, a three-day workshop, held in Harare in November, for heads of information departments of southern African National Societies;



- generally coordinated and strengthened programmes for the restoration and maintenance of family links conducted by the region's National Societies, thus enabling the exchange of 3,500 Red Cross messages between refugees from various African countries and their families;
- facilitated the holding of a first course on the law of war for officers of the Botswana army and, in this context, made a presentation to some 20 senior officers;
- organized, within the framework of a course given by the British Military Advisory and Training Team in June, a course on the law of armed conflict which was attended by around 30 senior officers of the Mozambique armed forces;
- took part in courses organized for the officers and instructors of the Zimbabwean armed forces and the army of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, held at the All Arms Battle School, Nyanga (Zimbabwe), in July and August;
- directed a workshop on the law of war, held in July at the Zimbabwe Staff College for around 60 officers from the Zimbabwean armed forces, police force and prison service, and from foreign armed forces;
- obtained a directive from the high command of the Malawian armed forces relating to the incorporation of the law of armed conflict into the training programme of its troops;
- held over ten seminars in Malawi on the implementation of humanitarian law for representatives of the government, the army, the police, the prison service and NGOs;
- organized a course on the law of armed conflict in February for 19 instructors of the Namibian army;
- directed the first course for UN staff officers, held at the SADC Regional Peacekeeping Training Centre in Harare, attended by 31 officers from the armed forces of 11 SADC member countries and one Senegalese officer.

PRETORIA

Regional delegation

(Comoros, Lesotho,
Madagascar, Mauritius,
Seychelles, South Africa,
Swaziland)

violence persists in South Africa

Throughout the year, the Pretoria regional delegation monitored the development of the situation in the various countries covered by it. The political situation was relatively calm everywhere but in the Comoros, where tensions persisted. Whenever necessary, the delegation intervened on behalf of victims or helped the National Societies concerned to provide them with assistance. In general, the ICRC continued to supply institutional, material and financial support for the programmes (particularly dissemination of international humanitarian law, restoration of family links and preparation for emergencies) and structural development of the region's National Societies. In addition, the regional delegation pursued its efforts to raise awareness of and respect for humanitarian law in political, military and academic circles and schools, and among the general public and the media. In this regard, the delegation benefited from the impact of the campaign conducted in South Africa to mark the 50th anniversary of the Geneva Conventions and, in particular, the "People on War" project.³³ As regards dissemination to the armed forces, the ICRC took part in the preparatory phase of a basic course on international humanitarian law and human rights to be given by the South African police to its 120,000 members. The delegation also kept up its representations to encourage States to adopt measures for national implementation of international humanitarian law and to ratify certain humanitarian law treaties (the Hague Convention of 1954, the Ottawa treaty, the Statute of the International Criminal Court, the 1980 United Nations Conventional Weapons Convention, etc.).

Following the general elections in June, which went off peacefully and resulted in a clear victory for the ANC,* the presidency of the Republic of South Africa passed from Nelson Mandela to Thabo Mbeki.

Though there was a sharp drop in acts of political violence during the year, the deterioration in the economic situation (partly attributable to the fall of the gold price on the international market), the policy of budget austerity followed by the South African government and the persistence of social problems, all contributed to continuing high levels of crime, especially in the big cities. With regard to violence, South Africa adopted an innovative approach to the proliferation of small arms by announcing in March that it intended to destroy all military surpluses and arms and ammunition confiscated by the police services. The arms were destroyed in public, drawing people's attention to the problem. For its part, the ICRC contributed to efforts to raise awareness of the issue through a survey conducted within the framework of the "People on War" project, targeting especially the black townships of Durban, Johannesburg and Cape Town. At the same time, the delegation provided financial and logistical support for the Wilgespruit Fellowship Centre, with a view to organizing workshops for the Johannesburg township communities on how to resolve problems by discussion rather than violence. The participants' attention was also drawn to humanitarian law and the activities of the Red Cross, particularly in connection with community development projects.

A conference organized under the aegis of the OAU was held in Antananarivo at the end of April in an attempt to resolve the crisis connected with the secession of the islands of Anjouan and Mohéli. Eventually, all the delegations from the Comoros -

³³ See pp. 348-350.

* ANC: African National Congress

army coup d'état in the Comoros

with the exception of the Anjouan delegation - signed an agreement which would give a greater degree of autonomy to each of the three islands of the Comoros archipelago. Anti-Anjouan demonstrations immediately broke out in Moroni, the capital of the Comoros, resulting in the departure of many people originating from Anjouan. The Comoros Red Crescent provided assistance for these people before their departure and then received and registered them on their arrival in Anjouan. The army, which had been brought in to restore order, then overthrew the Comoros government on 30 April. In December, fresh negotiations were held in Pretoria, on the initiative of the OAU, between representatives of the three islands and various African states of the Indian Ocean. When the Anjouan delegates refused to sign the Antananarivo agreement, the other participants at the meeting gave them until 1 February 2000 to do so. They also called on the new government in power in Moroni to restore constitutional government as soon as possible.

The ICRC carried out several missions to the Comoros in 1999 in order to assess the humanitarian situation and to hold talks with the civilian and military authorities and with officials of the National Society. During one of these missions, the ICRC was informed of the release of four detainees whom it had registered in December 1998.³⁴

withdrawal of foreign forces from Lesotho

The last of the Botswana and South African peacekeeping forces withdrew from Lesotho in late April and early May. These forces had been brought in under the aegis of the SADC in September 1998 in order to restore order in the country.³⁵ In addition, the past year also saw the continuing trial of members of the Lesotho armed forces charged with mutiny after the events of 1998.

evaluation of the nutrition and kitchen garden project in Madagascar's prisons

In late May and early June, the ICRC assessed the impact of the pilot nutrition and kitchen garden project conducted in Madagascar's prisons.³⁶ In general, the malnutrition rate had decreased by 10% since the project's implementation. However, significant disparities were noted between one place of detention and another, partly because of the differences in the budgets allocated to the various prisons. The evaluation also showed that the improvement in the nutritional situation in the prisons was principally due to the professionalization of the distribution of food aid by the Catholic chaplaincy of Madagascar's prisons, as well as the declared intention of the National Directorate of the Madagascar prison administration to resolve the main problems and to exercise greater supervision over prison staff. The results of the evaluation were delivered to the main parties concerned at the end of December on the occasion of one of the missions to the island by the Pretoria regional delegation.

³⁴ See the ICRC's 1998 Annual Report, p. 99.

³⁵ See the ICRC's 1998 Annual Report, p. 98.

³⁶ See the ICRC's 1998 Annual Report, p. 100.

IN 1999 THE ICRC:



- revisited 78 security detainees at the central prison and at the high security prison in Maseru (Lesotho) in April; in December, paid a further visit to 74 of these detainees, the others having been released in the meantime;
- offered all of the above-mentioned detainees the opportunity to exchange Red Cross messages with their families;



- through the exchange of Red Cross messages, helped maintain family links between refugees from various African countries in South Africa, Lesotho and Swaziland and their families abroad;



- organized, in cooperation with WHO and the University of Pretoria Health Department, a second HELP (Health Emergencies in Large Populations) course, held in Pretoria in November and attended by 15 participants from 11 countries;



- supported South African Red Cross preparations for the national elections in June by providing training in first aid for more than 500 volunteers and instructors and distributing materials (first-aid kits, flags, tabards);
- continued to support the community first-aid programme of the South African Red Cross Soweto branch;
- organized, jointly with the Johannesburg Institute for the Advancement of Journalism and the University of Pretoria, a three-day workshop for heads of information departments of southern African National Societies;
- supplied the Comoros Red Crescent with first-aid materials for the treatment of a total of 300 injured; provided financial support for the training of 95 National Society volunteers in the prevention and treatment of cholera on the archipelago's three islands;
- continued to support the community first-aid programme launched by the Malagasy Red Cross and, in this context, supplied first-aid material to the National Society;



- participated, as an expert in international humanitarian law, in a joint military exercise conducted in South Africa and mobilizing around 4,500 soldiers from 12 of the 14 SADC countries, civilian police forces, UN institutions and NGOs;
- presented humanitarian law during a three-week course on peacekeeping operations organized at the Pretoria Army College;
- arranged and organized, in some cases in cooperation with other institutions, sessions on humanitarian law, held in South Africa, Lesotho and Swaziland for members of the armed and police forces of these countries;
- took part in the organization of a course to train future South African military observers for service in contingents of the UN, the SADC and the OAU;
- promoted the campaign to mark the 50th anniversary of the Geneva Conventions, in particular by conducting a large-scale survey in South Africa on the limits of war within the framework of the "People on War" project.

ERITREA

PROTECTION

1,081,193

ASSISTANCE

10,720,092

PREVENTIVE ACTION

21,822

COOPERATION WITH THE NATIONAL SOCIETY

307,851

OVERHEADS

652,428

GENERAL

172,946

TOTAL EXPENDITURE Sfr 12,956,332



⊕ ICRC delegation

+ ICRC office/antenna

An incident in the disputed border area of Badme, between Eritrea and Ethiopia, in May 1998 rapidly escalated into full-blown war.³⁷ In 1999, troops clashed on several fronts along the 1,000-kilometre border separating the two countries. Between February and April, intermittent but fierce battles were waged on the fronts in the Badme, Tsorona and Mereb regions. By June, with the onset of the seasonal rains, neither side had gained a decisive advantage. Tension between the two neighbouring States was still simmering at the end of the year.

The rains brought a period of relative calm during which diplomatic efforts were stepped up to try to find a peaceful settlement to the conflict. The OAU framework agreement, which was first brokered in the summer of 1998, formed the basis for all subsequent mediation efforts. The peace initiative was given an additional boost in July when it seemed that the stalemate had been broken and that the two sides had agreed in principle to the OAU plan of implementation. At the end of the year, however, joint agreement on the technical arrangements of the peace accord was still pending.

³⁷ See the ICRC's 1998 Annual Report, p. 101.

international efforts at mediation

the high toll of war

The war, which involved two regular armies confronting each other from well-entrenched positions, was reported to take a high toll in military casualties. Civilians most directly affected were people living close to the front lines, tens of thousands of whom were displaced, deported or chose to return voluntarily to their respective country of origin. Many were separated from their family members, underwent traumatic experiences prior to or during the deportation and lost many or all of their assets.

Despite intense efforts to gain access to prisoners of war (POWs) captured by Eritrea since the outbreak of the war, including a visit by the ICRC President to Asmara in August during which he met the Eritrean President and Minister for Foreign Affairs, at the end of the year the authorities had still not given the ICRC permission to conduct the visits.

During the 27th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent,³⁸ held in Geneva in November, the Eritrean government pledged to initiate procedures for the ratification of the 1949 Geneva Conventions. Although Eritrea is not yet party to the Geneva Conventions or their Additional Protocols, it is nonetheless bound by the customary rules applicable in the event of international armed conflict.

The ICRC made written and oral representations to the authorities, drawing their attention to the basic provisions of humanitarian law, notably those contained in the Third and Fourth Geneva Conventions and Additional Protocol I. It reminded the Eritrean authorities of their obligations in particular towards POWs and Ethiopian civilians deprived of their freedom.

While it remained impossible for the ICRC to gain access to POWs, regular ICRC visits were conducted to a number of civilians of Ethiopian nationality detained in connection with the conflict.

Activities carried out to re-establish family links picked up considerably, particularly the exchange of Red Cross messages, as the service became better known among Eritreans and the Ethiopian population in Eritrea. This was the result of the ICRC's increased presence in the field, including in the camps for internally displaced people and in the Ethiopian state of Tigray.³⁹ The ICRC was also actively involved in reuniting families separated as a consequence of the conflict, but the number of such cases remained low as many potential candidates, who had been separated from their relatives when the latter were deported, were either allowed to leave their country of residence voluntarily or were expelled in their turn.

In its capacity as a neutral intermediary, the ICRC continued to ensure the safe passage across the front lines of people who had been expelled or were returning voluntarily to their country of origin.⁴⁰ When necessary, ad hoc assistance was provided to those people in cooperation with the National Society. The assistance took the form of medical aid for the most vulnerable, material supplies and help in transporting the deportees/voluntary returnees from the crossing point. All safe-passage operations were put on hold in February, however, owing to the renewed outbreak of hostilities. Although the ICRC ensured the safe passage from Ethiopia to Eritrea of 2,890 civilians of Eritrean descent in July, no further safe-passage operations took place for the rest of the year because of the lack of agreement by the relevant authorities.

³⁸ See pp. 376-377.

³⁹ See p. 123.

⁴⁰ See the ICRC's 1998 Annual Report, p. 102.

visits to prisoners of war and Ethiopian civilians deprived of their freedom

family news

*safe passage for deportees
and returnees*

assistance for the displaced

medical supplies and training

*promotion of the law
of armed conflict*

cooperation with other key players

In the last quarter of 1999, Ethiopia proceeded to organize the repatriation, on three separate occasions, of around 3,100 civilians. While the majority of the people concerned had, to the ICRC's knowledge, applied earlier for voluntary repatriation, these operations nevertheless posed considerable problems of humanitarian concern. The ICRC, in its capacity as a neutral intermediary, had been unable to secure the agreement of both parties for such operations at the time and thus was not involved in organizing safe passage across the front lines. ICRC assistance was limited to support for the Red Cross Society of Eritrea in each operation.

The ICRC made a series of representations concerning respect for the rights afforded by the Geneva Conventions to Ethiopian aliens living in Eritrea or wishing to return home voluntarily. The authorities at the highest level were thereby informed of recurring humanitarian issues, and a solution found to a number of problems encountered by Ethiopians living in difficult conditions. Throughout the second half of the year it nevertheless remained impossible to organize safe-passage operations for potential voluntary returnees to Ethiopia.

The situation of the tens of thousands of civilians displaced from the border area and living in camps worsened during the first half of 1999. The ICRC first provided camps in Debub province with shelter and non-food material, distributed in cooperation with the Red Cross Society of Eritrea. Food was distributed by other organizations, but since they could not meet the demand, the ICRC made up for the shortfall between July and December.

The ICRC assisted medical facilities treating the war-wounded by providing medical supplies, equipment, surgical instruments and medicines. Ten future physiotherapists followed a five-month course set up in the main hospital of the Eritrean capital. This course, conducted by two ICRC physiotherapists, provided both theoretical teaching and practical training. The course will count towards an 18-month diploma course in physiotherapy to start in 2000.

The delegation maintained a constant dialogue with the authorities to further their understanding of the ICRC's work and of international humanitarian law and to promote the accession of the State of Eritrea to the four 1949 Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols of 1977.

In terms of dissemination programmes, the Red Cross Society of Eritrea had access to a large segment of the population through the Circus Eritrea, a youth group which performed plays and songs promoting fundamental Red Cross principles. In addition, the Eritrean Red Cross organized dissemination sessions along with each training course for first-aiders, thereby reaching the local population, rural authorities, secondary school students and Red Cross volunteers.

The ICRC worked in close cooperation with the different components of the Red Cross/Red Crescent Movement in the region. It also kept in regular contact for coordination purposes with other humanitarian organizations, both national and international, particularly in the field of assistance.

The ICRC strove to support the Red Cross Society of Eritrea, which was not yet recognized by the Movement or the Eritrean government. At the 27th International Conference, the latter pledged to take steps to speed up the process of establishing the National Society's legal status.

The ICRC also endeavoured to strengthen the National Society's emergency-response, first-aid training and ambulance services, especially in conflict areas. The ambulance services, provided by the Red Cross Society of Eritrea within the framework of its cooperation agreement with the ICRC, were used to evacuate the wounded to medical facilities. The ICRC also reinforced the National Society's dissemination and tracing capacities. All surveys and subsequent assistance programmes targeting conflict victims were carried out in close cooperation with the Red Cross Society of Eritrea, which throughout the year gained weight and respect as a major player in the humanitarian field.

IN 1999 THE ICRC:



- visited 17 Ethiopian civilians protected by the Fourth Geneva Convention and held in 4 places of detention, and continued its efforts to gain access to Ethiopian POWs;



- ensured the safe passage across the front lines of Eritrean and Ethiopian civilians expelled or returning voluntarily to their respective country of origin;



- together with the Eritrean Red Cross, handled 4,134 Red Cross messages to allow people unable to contact their families as a result of the international armed conflict to inform relatives of their whereabouts and welfare;
- in cooperation with the respective Red Cross Societies, reunited 2 families who had been separated by the international armed conflict;
- exchanged 10,386 Red Cross messages between civilian internees held in Eritrea and their families in Ethiopia;



- in cooperation with the Red Cross Society of Eritrea, provided assistance for displaced people in Dehub province, distributing 7,008 tonnes of food, 4,207 tents, 2,000 tarpaulins, 24,680 blankets, 12,625 jerrycans and 35.8 tonnes of soap;



- in cooperation with the Ministry of Health, assisted health facilities by supplying 14 hospital tents, beds, hospital equipment, surgical and medical supplies and medicines for the war-wounded;
- helped renovate a regional hospital;
- established a training course for future physiotherapists;



- supported the Red Cross Society of Eritrea with a view to strengthening its emergency response, first-aid training and ambulance services, especially in conflict areas, and reinforcing its dissemination and tracing capacities;



- fostered contacts with regional and federal government authorities to further understanding of the ICRC's work and humanitarian law;
- promoted the incorporation of the law of armed conflict in the training of the Eritrean Defence Forces.

EAST AFRICA ETHIOPIA

ETHIOPIA

PROTECTION

3,088,274

ASSISTANCE

3,886,462

PREVENTIVE ACTION

817,142

COOPERATION WITH THE NATIONAL SOCIETY

61,617

OVERHEADS

616,946

GENERAL

610,260

TOTAL EXPENDITURE Sfr 9,080,701



⊕ ICRC delegation ⊕ ICRC sub-delegation + ICRC office/antenna ▽ Prosthetic/orthotic centre/workshop

An incident in the disputed border area of Badme, between Eritrea and Ethiopia, in May 1998 rapidly escalated into full-blown war.⁴¹ In 1999, troops clashed on several fronts along the 1,000-kilometre border separating the two countries. Between February and April, intermittent but fierce battles were waged on the fronts in the Badme, Tsorona and Mereb regions. By June, with the onset of the seasonal rains, neither side had gained a decisive advantage. Tension between the two neighbouring States was still simmering at the end of the year.

The rains brought a period of relative calm during which diplomatic efforts were stepped up to try to find a peaceful settlement to the conflict. The OAU framework agreement, which was first brokered in the summer of 1998, formed the basis for all subsequent mediation efforts. The peace initiative was given an additional boost in July when it seemed that the stalemate had been broken and that the two sides had agreed in principle to the OAU plan of implementation. At the end of the year, however, joint agreement on the technical arrangements of the peace accord was still pending.

⁴¹ See the ICRC's 1998 Annual Report, p. 101.

international efforts at mediation

the high toll of war

ICRC work in relation to the international conflict

internal unrest

visits to POWs, civilian internees and detainees

The war, which involved two regular armies confronting each other from well-entrenched positions, was reported to take a high toll in military casualties. Civilians most directly affected were people living close to the front lines, tens of thousands of whom were displaced, deported or chose to return voluntarily to their respective country of origin. Many were separated from their family members, underwent traumatic experiences prior to or during the deportation and lost many or all of their assets.

Within the context of the international conflict with Eritrea, the ICRC's objectives in Ethiopia were twofold: to ensure that humanitarian law was respected and that protected populations were treated in accordance with its provisions; and to continue visits to POWs and interned civilians in order to ascertain that the treatment they received and the conditions in which they were held complied with the provisions of the Third and Fourth Geneva Conventions. In August, the ICRC President made an official visit to Addis Ababa. He met the State President, the Prime Minister and the Minister for Foreign Affairs, with whom he discussed pending humanitarian issues with regard to the international conflict. It was during this visit that the ICRC was informed by the highest authorities that it could resume its activities in the state of Tigray.⁴²

With attention focused on the international conflict with Eritrea, military activity by armed opposition groups, which had fallen off in 1997 and in 1998, seemed to regain a certain momentum, particularly in Somali National Regional State⁴³ and in the Borena zone of Oromiya Regional State, where sporadic clashes between opposition groups and the Ethiopian armed forces were reported. Other areas enjoyed relative calm.

The ICRC focused its efforts in connection with the internal unrest on regular visits to detainees held in connection with the change of government in 1991 or for reasons of State security, combined health and veterinary projects for nomadic populations in the Afder zone of Somali National Regional State, and rehabilitation programmes for amputees and the war-wounded.

The ICRC visited POWs and civilian internees, held first in Bilate and then in Dedessa internment camps, in accordance with its standard procedures. The aim of the visits was to ensure that the material conditions of internment and the treatment afforded to the POWs and civilian internees were in conformity with the relevant provisions of the Third and Fourth Geneva Conventions. The ICRC maintained a regular dialogue with the authorities concerned and reported its findings and recommendations to them.

In addition to its protection and assistance activities related to the international conflict, the ICRC also continued its regular visits to people detained either in connection with the change of government in 1991 or for reasons of State security. In July, for the first time since September 1997, it was authorized to visit detainees held at the Central Investigation Department, but it was subsequently denied authorization for follow-up visits. In Tigray Regional State, the ICRC was able to resume visits to detainees held in civilian prisons in December. Oral and written representations were made to the relevant authorities regarding specific aspects of the detainees' treatment and living conditions.

⁴² See p. 120.

⁴³ See the ICRC's 1998 Annual Report, p. 105.

preventive health measures in prisons

During their visits, delegates and ICRC sanitary engineers paid special attention to the health situation in places of detention. Emphasis was placed on preventive health measures and sound hygiene practices in order to reduce the incidence of such ailments as diarrhoea and skin diseases. A pilot project to promote basic health education, launched in 1998 and carried out in cooperation with the Jima School of Environmental Health, was extended to cover all the prisons visited. The project involved local partners in raising detainees' awareness of personal hygiene routines adapted to the prison environment.

ICRC sanitary engineers made improvements to the water and sewage systems in places of detention throughout the country, upgrading sanitary facilities, water supply systems and kitchens. Their work consisted of completing new water-distribution systems, installing water reservoirs, and building walkways, latrines, septic tanks, shower rooms and wash basins.

ICRC monitors trials

The ICRC continued to monitor the trials in Addis Ababa and in the regional supreme courts of detainees accused of committing crimes during the previous regime. It also began to monitor the trials of detainees held for reasons of State security. The ICRC shared its observations on respect for judicial guarantees concerning those held in connection with the change of government in 1991 or for reasons of State security with the relevant legal authorities. The delegation also made a number of formal representations to regional authorities concerning the issue of extrajudicial detention of people visited by the ICRC and who had been detained for between two and six years without a court appearance or without being charged.

Red Cross messages

Following the interruption of telecommunication and postal services between Eritrea and Ethiopia as a result of the armed conflict between the two countries, a network was set up in cooperation with the Ethiopian Red Cross Society to collect and distribute Red Cross messages so as to allow separated family members, the displaced and civilians interned in Ethiopia to inform their relatives of their whereabouts and welfare. Around 90% of all family messages were exchanged between civilian internees and their next-of-kin.

safe passage for deportees and returnees

In its capacity as a neutral intermediary, the ICRC continued to ensure the safe passage across the front lines of people who had been expelled or were returning voluntarily to their country of origin.⁴⁴ When necessary, ad hoc assistance was provided to them in cooperation with the National Society. The assistance took the form of medical aid for the most vulnerable, material supplies and help in transporting the deportees/voluntary returnees from the crossing point. All safe-passage operations were put on hold in February, however, owing to the renewed outbreak of hostilities. Although the ICRC ensured the safe passage from Ethiopia to Eritrea of 2,890 civilians of Eritrean descent in July, no further safe-passage operations took place for the rest of the year because of the lack of agreement by the relevant authorities.

The situation of Eritreans living in Addis Ababa and, as such, protected by the Fourth Geneva Convention was closely monitored by the ICRC. The most destitute were given medical assistance, and representations were made to the authorities concerned stressing both the rights afforded to this population under the Fourth Geneva Convention and the importance of organizing safe-passage operations for those who had expressed the wish to return to Eritrea.

⁴⁴ See the ICRC's 1998 Annual Report, p. 102.

*assistance to those displaced
by the international conflict*

preparing for the worst

medical supplies and training

ambulance services

In the last quarter of 1999, Ethiopia proceeded to organize the repatriation, on three separate occasions, of around 3,100 civilians. While the majority of the people concerned had, to the ICRC's knowledge, applied earlier for voluntary repatriation, these operations nevertheless posed considerable problems of humanitarian concern. The ICRC, in its capacity as a neutral intermediary, had been unable to secure the agreement of both parties for such operations at the time and thus was not involved in organizing safe passage across the front lines.

On 10 February, the Ethiopian authorities in Tigray ordered the ICRC team and all other international organizations and NGOs to leave the region, thereby putting an end to any immediate assistance to the displaced there. The ICRC was allowed to return to the area in August, however, and it set up programmes to assist people displaced by the conflict and living in camps and to provide support for medical facilities treating the war-wounded.

In order to strengthen the Ethiopian Red Cross branches near the conflict zones and to build up preparedness in case the situation deteriorated further, the ICRC provided training to first-aid instructors and first-aiders in the Tigray and Afar regions. To bolster the capacity of health facilities in these areas, the ICRC pre-positioned medical stocks in warehouses to treat a further 300 war-wounded. Additional back-up supplies were stocked in Addis Ababa for the treatment of over 1,000 war casualties and appropriate logistical supply lines were secured by the delegation with the ICRC's regional logistics centre in Nairobi in case of further needs.

The ICRC assisted four civilian hospitals in Tigray, providing equipment, surgical instruments and medicines for the treatment of the war-wounded. In two hospitals, rub-halls (multi-purpose tents) were installed to increase hospital capacity. A training programme in maxillofacial surgery was organized by the ICRC for four Ethiopian surgeons working at the Armed Forces General Hospital in Addis Ababa.

ICRC support for the Ethiopian Red Cross Society's ambulance services included the repair and complete maintenance of ten ambulances in the ICRC workshop in Addis Ababa. In addition, the ICRC upgraded the National Society's ambulance fleet in Tigray after its return to the state, and donated six new ambulances, four of which were earmarked for conflict response in Tigray. Construction work started on a Red Cross workshop to enable the Tigray branch to maintain its ambulance fleet unaided.

Under a tripartite assistance agreement reached between the Armed Forces General Hospital, the Addis Ababa branch of the Ethiopian Red Cross and the ICRC, two Red Cross ambulances and their drivers, financed by the ICRC, were loaned to the hospital for the purpose of transporting wounded soldiers from airstrips in and around the capital to the hospital for surgical treatment.

Following the resumption of ICRC activities in March in Somali National Regional State,⁴⁵ the main problems addressed by the ICRC in the state's Afer zone included the nomadic population's lack of access to health services and the threat to young children and pregnant women of the most prevalent diseases in the region – malaria and diarrhoea. Efforts were also made to combat the lack of veterinary services by increasing knowledge of the main livestock diseases and controlling

⁴⁵ The ICRC had withdrawn its expatriate staff from Somali National Regional State in June 1998, following the abduction of one of its teams. For more information, see the ICRC's 1998 Annual Report, p. 105.

*integrated health
and veterinary projects*

rehabilitation of amputees

focus on emergency preparedness

*promoting international
humanitarian law*

the prevalence of the tsetse fly. In addition, shallow wells were rehabilitated and steps were taken to improve the quantity and quality of the water available in nomadic areas for both human and animal consumption. All activities were based on the principle of community involvement and participation.

In October 1998, the ICRC launched a project in Gode with a view to increasing the town's water supplies by 50% without consuming additional fuel. This was achieved by renovating a 500,000-litre reservoir, improving the river catchment system and repairing a number of electromechanical components. The work, undertaken in close cooperation with the regional water authorities, included the provision of safe water to schools, prisons and Gode hospital.

The prosthetic/orthotic centre in Addis Ababa continued to be used by the ICRC and the Special Fund for the Disabled as a regional centre for Africa and the Middle East. Prosthetic components were produced for use principally in prosthetic/orthotic centres throughout these regions, but consignments were also shipped to Asia and Europe. Technicians from countries as far afield as Norway and Zimbabwe received training at the centre.

The government-run centres of Mekele (Tigray region) and Harar received ICRC assistance in the form of staff training, repairs/renovations to premises and deliveries of prosthetic/orthotic components.

ICRC cooperation with the Ethiopian Red Cross focused on the National Society's emergency preparedness in relation to the international conflict and support for cooperation activities conducted in connection with the internal situation. Many ICRC activities in the field were carried out with the support of Ethiopian Red Cross staff.

The ICRC continued to work together with both the Ethiopian Red Cross Society and the Federation to improve the National Society's ability to provide services to the most vulnerable at community level. Much emphasis was placed on emergency preparedness and on regular cooperation activities in the areas of tracing, dissemination, first aid and the development of branches in potential conflict zones.

The ICRC fostered contacts with regional and federal government authorities to increase understanding of the ICRC's work and international humanitarian law. Delegates promoted the incorporation of the law of armed conflict into the teaching curricula of the Ethiopian Defence Forces.

The ICRC sponsored the attendance by the Head of the Federal Police Training College at a two-week "pool officer" training course in Geneva on international humanitarian law/human rights and good policing. In turn, he facilitated a five-day ICRC training course on this subject for police trainers held in Ethiopia in May. A half-day dissemination session at the Training College was also organized for police cadets.

Dissemination sessions organized jointly with the Ethiopian Red Cross Society were held for government officials and religious and community leaders in Asebe Teferi, Dire Dawa, Harar, Metu and in the Ogaden region. The main topics discussed were the ICRC's activities in Ethiopia and the basic tenets of international humanitarian law.

The State-run Civil Service College incorporated a 28-hour humanitarian law course into the Law Faculty's curriculum for second-year law students beginning their

ICRC mission to the OAU

academic year in 1999/2000. The College is the first in Ethiopia to include a specialized course on humanitarian law in its official teaching programme.

The delegation sponsored and worked on the translation of the Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols into Amharic. In October, as a result of the ICRC's efforts and those of the Legal Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ethiopian authorities formally transmitted these translations to the Swiss Federal Council, depositary of the Conventions.

The ICRC continued to support the work of the interministerial committee for the development and implementation of international humanitarian law and made a sustained effort to encourage the government to ratify the Ottawa landmines treaty and the 1980 Convention on Conventional Weapons.

The ICRC's permanent mission to the OAU focused on gaining broad insight into the political scene in Africa and on building strong relations with the institutions of and the ambassadors accredited to the OAU, ECA,* UN agencies, African regional organizations such as the SADC and ECOWAS, and NGOs. The ICRC's objective was to encourage greater recognition and wider application of international humanitarian law throughout Africa and to raise awareness of the ICRC's role and worldwide activities.

* ECA: UN Economic Commission for Africa

IN 1999 THE ICRC:



- visited some 570 Eritrean POWs and 1,350 civilian internees, providing them with material assistance and hygiene, educational and recreational items, and delivering basic medical supplies to the medical facilities in the internment camps in which they were being held;
- visited approximately 9,100 detainees held in connection with the change of government in 1991 or for State security reasons in 88 places of detention and where necessary provided them with basic medical supplies, blankets, hygiene and recreational items;
- carried out water-supply and sanitation improvements in 26 places of detention;
- held 3 workshops for prison employees on prison health issues;
- continued to monitor 3 trials in Addis Ababa of detainees accused of committing crimes during the previous regime;
- made formal representations on behalf of security detainees who had spent between 2 and 6 years in detention without a court appearance or without charges being filed against them;



- ensured the safe passage across the front lines of Eritrean and Ethiopian civilians expelled or returning voluntarily to their respective country of origin;



- exchanged 17,994 Red Cross messages between civilian internees held in Ethiopia and their families in Eritrea or third countries;
- in cooperation with the Ethiopian Red Cross, handled 3,065 Red Cross messages to allow people unable to contact their families as a consequence of the international armed conflict to inform relatives of their whereabouts and welfare;
- in cooperation with the Ethiopian Red Cross, handled 4,660 Red Cross messages in order to maintain or restore family links for Ethiopian refugees outside the country and for refugees from neighbouring countries settled in Ethiopia;
- exchanged 2,046 Red Cross messages between people detained under the responsibility of the civilian authorities and their families;
- in cooperation with the respective Red Cross Societies, reunited 2 families who had been separated as a consequence of the international armed conflict;



- in cooperation with the Ethiopian Red Cross, provided assistance for displaced people living in camps in Tigray, distributing food, tents, tarpaulins, blankets, jerry-cans and bars of soap;

EAST AFRICA ETHIOPIA



- in cooperation with the Ministry of Health, provided hospitals with medical supplies/equipment and surgical instruments; pre-positioned medical stocks in warehouses and an additional back-up stock in Addis Ababa for over 1,000 war-wounded; and held war-surgery seminars for surgeons of the Armed Forces General Hospital and field hospitals;

- in rural areas of Somali National Regional State, held a course for nomads on drug treatment for their livestock;

- supplied measles vaccines to health authorities in Somali National Regional State;



- held courses in polypropylene technology for 41 prosthetic/orthotic technicians at the training centre in Addis Ababa, and carried out repairs and renovation work to the premises;

- supplied components and material for prosthetic/orthotic projects worldwide;



- started a water-supply project in Gode town;

- provided material and technical assistance to repair hand-pumps, clean and rehabilitate wells and construct rainwater-harvesting dams for the pastoral population and their livestock in the Afder zone (Somali National Regional State);



- helped to maintain and strengthen the Ethiopian Red Cross Society's regional branches and their operational capacity, especially in areas affected by conflict;

- worked with the Federation to improve the ability of the Ethiopian Red Cross to provide services to the most vulnerable at the community level;

- helped the National Society to build its capacity in the areas of emergency preparedness, first aid, tracing and dissemination;

- conducted regional workshops to train National Society dissemination officers, tracing volunteers and Red Cross youth leaders;



- fostered contacts with regional and federal government authorities to further understanding of the ICRC's work and humanitarian law;

- promoted the incorporation of the law of armed conflict into the teaching curricula of the Ethiopian Defence Forces;

- held seminars for officers and cadets from the Ethiopian Police Force, police instructors, students and government officials to present the role of the ICRC and the Movement and the provisions of humanitarian law.

EAST AFRICA SOMALIA

SOMALIA

PROTECTION

1,262,085

ASSISTANCE

16,079,733

PREVENTIVE ACTION

675,996

COOPERATION WITH THE NATIONAL SOCIETY

421,437

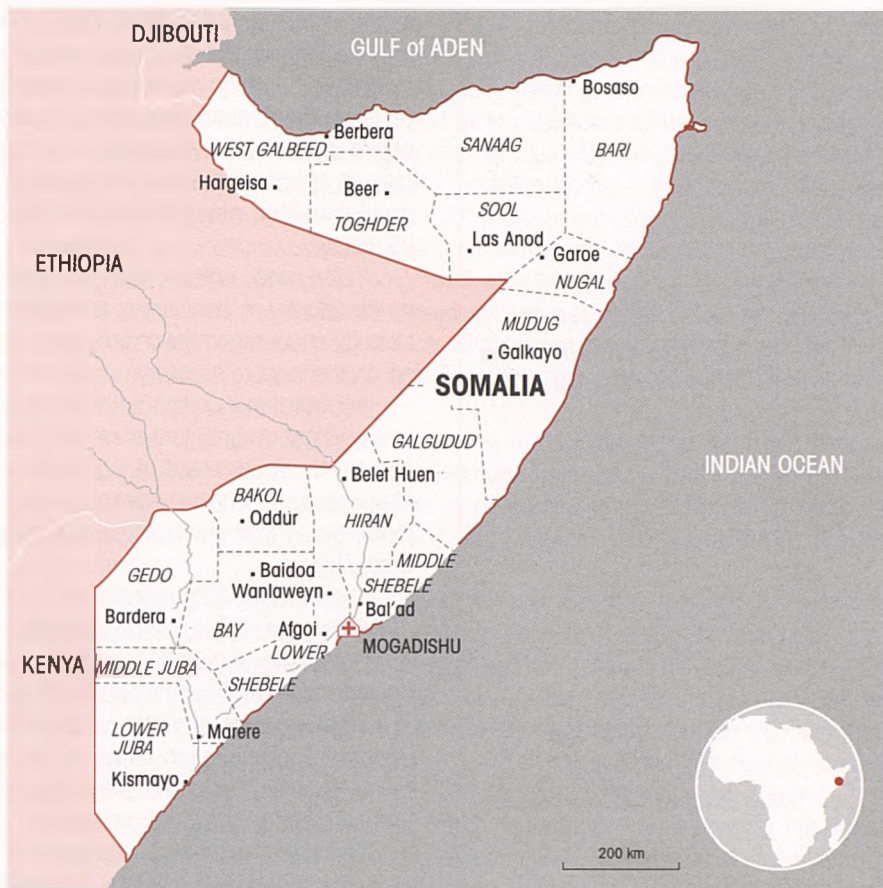
OVERHEADS

1,169,727

GENERAL

578,509

TOTAL EXPENDITURE Sfr 20,187,487



(ICRC delegation in Nairobi)

SRCS/ICRC hospital

With the fall of Siad Barre's regime in 1991 and the subsequent collapse of central government, Somalia fell prey to anarchy, with a host of ever-fragmenting clans and factions jostling for power. Development and recovery efforts were seriously impaired by the prevalence of violence and lawlessness, leaving the population in a precarious, volatile and vulnerable environment dogged by underdevelopment and adverse weather conditions.

Peace initiatives at the international, regional and local levels systematically failed to find common ground between the different groups. The low-intensity conflict in central-southern Somalia dragged on, without any foreseeable political solution.

Heavy fighting in Mogadishu North in March brought about the collapse of the Benadir administration; together with the disbanding of the newly created unified police force, this marked a fresh setback for the formation of a central government and seriously undermined the authority of the major warlords and their clan factions. In June, the town of Baidoa, controlled by the SNA,* was taken by the RRA.* In the

* SNA: Somalia National Alliance

* RRA: Rahanwein Resistance Army

*disparities between
north and south*

fewer humanitarian players

*emergency and
medium-term response*

same month the port city of Kismayo was seized by a coalition of SNF* and SNA forces. Despite efforts to re-establish law and order through Sharia courts in Mogadishu and the south, opposition from warlords resulted in intermittent clashes.

Elsewhere, such as in the north-eastern Puntland state and Somaliland, relative peace and stability prevailed, although occasional fighting did break out in the regions of Sool and Sanaag. Somaliland continued to work on its reconstruction and development, a move started in 1991 with its secession and self-proclaimed independence.

In the north, communities are less fragmented along ethnic lines than elsewhere in the country. A consensus is therefore easier to achieve. The subsequent political stability encouraged the international community to invest in the region, which started on the road to recovery.

In central and certain southern regions stability is enhanced when one clan alone has political and military control. However, a large part of the south continued to be affected by the absence of legitimate authorities, the lack of social and public infrastructure and services, clashes, natural disasters and chronically depleted local resources. These elements all put an additional strain on the already fragile coping mechanisms.

The number of humanitarian workers operating in Somalia fell drastically after 1998 owing to the increasingly tense security situation. Indeed, the hostage crisis of April 1998 prompted most other humanitarian organizations to suspend or limit their operations throughout the country.⁴⁶ In 1999, humanitarian workers were the victims of numerous acts of violence and threats. Striking a balance between making an impact in humanitarian terms (measured by evaluating and monitoring the assistance provided) and the inevitable risks run by humanitarian workers when on Somali territory remained a dilemma.

The ICRC Somalia delegation was therefore still based in Nairobi, Kenya, with expatriates and field officers conducting regular and frequent trips to all parts of Somalia. They carried out surveys and monitoring activities, ensured the smooth running of programmes and maintained vital contacts. Most ICRC activities were implemented countrywide via the Somali Red Crescent Society - the only Somali structure which could still claim a degree of national representation - and ICRC Somali staff.

The main thrust of the ICRC's work remained an emergency response to the direct effects of conflict combined with natural disasters. Such activities included medical assistance to the war-wounded, dealing with recurring basic health care problems, water distribution, emergency repairs to boreholes in drought-stricken areas in central Somalia and the provision of material assistance. The delegation also adopted a medium-term approach designed to maintain local coping mechanisms and preserve the basic living conditions of specific target groups, such as women and children.

In southern Somalia, the poor climatic conditions severely affected the coping mechanisms of farmers in rain-fed areas and of nomads directly affected by the low level of precipitation over the last four rainy seasons. A marked depreciation of the shilling and a substantial increase in the price of imported food and commodities further eroded the purchasing power of the population. Access of the most vulnerable groups to basic foodstuffs became a matter of grave concern.

* SNF: Somali National Front

⁴⁶ See the ICRC's 1998 Annual Report, p. 111.

dire food situation in the south

*provision of safe and sufficient
water supplies*

ICRC assistance to hospitals

To combat any nutritional decline, the ICRC distributed food and material assistance to people affected by fighting and/or natural disaster. The delegation also distributed seed so as to enable the farming community and some nomads to reinforce the local coping mechanisms which had been debilitated as a result of the conflict.

Those displaced by the fighting in southern Somalia (mainly Lower and Middle Juba and Lower and Middle Shebele), including some 1,400 families who were expelled from Kenya in June, received ICRC material assistance. The fall of Kismayo and fighting in the district between SPM* militiamen and those of the SNF/SNA coalition triggered a large population movement, mainly towards the Kenyan border. This border crossing was subsequently closed and access to the whole western part of Lower Juba became problematic. In late September, the ICRC gained access to the area from inside Somalia and distributed non-food items to displaced families coming from Kismayo and its environs.

When the "gu" and "deyr" rains resulted in flooding along the main rivers in Somalia, the ICRC provided the affected families with shelter and cooking material, as well as seeds to help prevent another crop failure. Sandbags were also distributed to the local communities along the Juba and Shebele rivers to prevent the flooding of their fields.

Foodstuffs and seed were supplied to over 60,000 families displaced by the fighting in southern and central Somalia. Their access to food had been hampered by poor security conditions, the families' low purchasing power and the rise in staple food prices caused by the failed "gu" harvest. Non-food supplies consisting primarily of shelter and cooking items were handed out to over 20,000 families in Hiran, Lower and Middle Juba, Lower Shebele and the Somali capital, Mogadishu.

During the first three months of 1999, a drought in the central regions of Galgudud, Hiran, Mudug and Nugal prompted the ICRC to transport water in by truck. Once the initial emergency had been contained, the ICRC adopted a long-term approach founded on basic rehabilitation, including repairs to and the supply of generators, pumps and spare parts for boreholes and underground reservoirs. Whenever possible, the ICRC involved local communities in the rehabilitation of water points, reservoirs, boreholes and hand-dug wells with a view to ensuring a regular and safe supply of water for human consumption and for livestock.

Without outside humanitarian assistance, medical facilities could not provide the necessary treatment for the war-wounded and the resident and displaced civilian population. In 1999 as in the past, the ICRC therefore provided regular support to hospitals. The 90-bed Keysaney hospital in Mogadishu North, which has received ICRC assistance since 1991, was often full to overflowing, with 70% of patients being war-wounded from various parts of the country. Following the rapid collapse of the Benadir administration in March 1999, government support to the Medina Hospital in Mogadishu South ceased. The ICRC therefore increased its supplies to the health facility's surgical unit. To ensure the hospital's smooth running, the ICRC carried out major rehabilitation work to its water distribution network, its electricity supply and its buildings. In November, the ICRC conducted an evaluation of the hospital's situation in view of further steps to be taken in 2000.

* SPM: Somali Patriotic Movement

*outpatient departments and
mother and child health care*

cholera outbreak

essential tracing services

*cooperation with the Somali Red
Crescent*

*traditional values
and humanitarian rules*

Regular or ad hoc support was given to the Medina health post, which functioned as a first-aid post, the surgical departments of Baidoa and Galkayo hospitals, and to private hospitals confronted by an influx of war-wounded (such as Luq hospital). Medical supplies were also furnished to health posts in Lower Juba and Lower Shebele which regularly treated war casualties.

With no national or regional health systems up and running, the civilian population in rural or conflict-stricken areas had little or no access to health care. To ensure that vulnerable groups in conflict zones received basic medical treatment, the ICRC supported outpatient clinics and mother and child health care centres run by the Somali Red Crescent Society in Galgudud, Hiran and Lower Juba. In April, the ICRC also took over the running of six clinics in Kismayo previously supported by the Federation.

An emergency stock of oral rehydration salts for a possible cholera outbreak was permanently positioned at Mogadishu South and made available to other parts of Somalia, such as the Lower Juba and Marere regions, where two outbreaks of watery diarrhoea occurred. While the disease was still reaching epidemic proportions, the ICRC handed over supplies on a weekly basis to the Benadir Cholera Therapeutic Centre in Mogadishu South. The ICRC also furnished supplies to the Somali Red Crescent's four oral rehydration dispensing centres in Mogadishu South, where cholera was most prevalent. Assistance took the form of regular supplies of drugs, including antibiotics and infusions, and improvements made to the centres' sanitation facilities. On average, 1,000 patients per month (mostly displaced people) received treatment against cholera. Thanks to the Somali Red Crescent's support, the ICRC also conducted educational and preventive activities in areas where cholera had hit or where it could be expected according to the pattern witnessed in previous years.

With thousands of Somalis still displaced within their homeland or scattered throughout the world, the ICRC's tracing programme remained one of the largest and most invaluable services rendered in a country whose centralized postal system collapsed years ago. Services were hampered, however, owing to security problems, particularly in the Kismayo area. The ICRC had handed over responsibility for the tracing service to the Somali Red Crescent in October 1998, but it remained on hand throughout the year to provide technical and financial support as needed.

Working in close coordination with the Federation, the ICRC assisted the Somali Red Crescent in the implementation of its primary health care programmes and supervised Somali health education teams providing training for traditional birth attendants and community health workers from outlying villages. The delegation also provided appropriate support for the Red Crescent's tracing, dissemination and emergency-preparedness programmes.

The ICRC kept up its efforts to promote respect for humanitarian rules by drawing parallels with Somalia's nomadic tradition and oral culture. A series of short plays ("googoos") were aired on the BBC Somali Service and local radio stations. These combine humour, sketches and music and cover such issues as women and war, lack of freedom of movement, aid and aid dependency. The ICRC also pursued its dissemination strategy aimed at illustrating the similarities between local traditions of warfare and the basic humanitarian rules contained in the Geneva Conventions.

Delegates and field staff took every opportunity to increase awareness of matters relating to protection of the civilian population through contact with the authorities, militias and elders.

Somalia was one of the contexts chosen for the ICRC's "People on War" project.⁴⁷ On the basis of 1,000 questionnaires and in-depth interviews, the Somali people were asked to share their personal experiences of conflict and their views on respect for humanitarian rules in time of war.

⁴⁷ See pp. 348-350.

IN 1999 THE ICRC:



- backed the Somali Red Crescent Society's efforts to handle 22,518 Red Cross messages for members of dispersed families in Somalia and abroad;
- opened 285 tracing cases and solved 185;
- broadcast the names of 5,112 Somalis on the BBC Somali Service in Nairobi on behalf of families trying to locate missing relatives;
- assisted, in its capacity as a neutral intermediary, in the exchange of prisoners captured by the SPM and the SNF/SNA;



- initiated a seed distribution programme targeting farming families in the Gedo, Lower and Middle Juba, Hiran, Bay, Bakol and Lower and Middle Shabele regions, distributing 982 tonnes of seed;
- distributed 1,449 tonnes of food and 478 tonnes of material assistance to people affected by fighting or natural disaster in the Gedo, Lower and Middle Juba, Lower and Middle Shabelle, Hiran, Bakol and Bay regions;
- provided sandbags to farmers along the Juba and Shabelle rivers to fill gaps in the flood protection system;

EAST AFRICA SOMALIA



- fully supported Keysaney hospital in Mogadishu North, run by the Somali Red Crescent in cooperation with the ICRC, by supplying medicines, surgical materials, cleaning products and fuel and paying running costs and the salaries of staff;
- provided regular support to health facilities treating war casualties and distributed food as necessary (Baidoa, Galkayo and Medina in Mogadishu South), channelling supplies through the Somali Red Crescent;
- furnished 6 health facilities treating the war-wounded in Lower Juba and Lower Shebele with ad hoc medical assistance comprising dressing, dispensary and paediatric kits;
- pre-positioned medical stocks in Mogadishu South to optimize assistance to the war-wounded;
- supported 11 outpatient clinics run by the Somali Red Crescent Society, which performed consultations in Hiran, Galgudud and Lower Juba, and took over the running of 6 such clinics in Kismayo previously supported by the Federation;
- pre-positioned an emergency stock of oral rehydration salts in Mogadishu South for a possible cholera outbreak;
- at the height of the cholera epidemic, handed over supplies on a weekly basis to the Benadir Cholera Therapeutic Centre in Mogadishu South;
- provided essential assistance and conducted educational and preventive activities in areas where cholera had hit or where it could be expected according to the pattern witnessed in previous years;



- supplied water to help combat the serious water shortage in the Hiran, Mudug, Nugal and Galgudud regions;
- helped rehabilitate water points, reservoirs, boreholes and hand-dug wells throughout Somalia;



- in coordination with the Federation, assisted the Somali Red Crescent in the implementation of its primary health care programmes by training medical personnel, building or rehabilitating dispensaries and furnishing medical supplies;
- supervised 8 Somali health education teams, in coordination with the Federation, which organized training sessions for traditional birth attendants and community health workers from outlying villages;



- continued its programmes for young people and militia members, using plays, comic strips and video cassettes adapted to the Somali culture to encourage them to abide by certain minimum standards of behaviour in the conduct of hostilities;
- took every opportunity to increase awareness among the authorities, militias and elders of matters relating to protection of the civilian population;
- informed a variety of target groups about its activities in Somalia through publications, press releases and regular contact with the media.

EAST AFRICA SUDAN

SUDAN

PROTECTION

1,138,983

ASSISTANCE

34,224,717

PREVENTIVE ACTION

561,979

COOPERATION WITH THE NATIONAL SOCIETY

1,507,624

OVERHEADS

2,445,431

GENERAL

2,627,341

TOTAL EXPENDITURE Sfr 42,506,075



ICRC delegation ICRC sub-delegation ICRC office ICRC hospital Prosthetic/orthotic centre/workshop

Throughout 1999, internal conflict and unrest persisted across large areas of Sudan. Sporadic military operations were reported in southern and eastern Sudan: in the oil-rich areas of Unity State (western Upper Nile), in the southern Blue Nile region, in and around Kassala and in the Nuba mountains. The presence of the oil pipeline running from Unity State (Upper Nile region) towards Port Sudan served to heighten tension, resulting in frequent inter-factional fighting and subsequent population displacements, particularly in Unity State. The increasing splintering of factions and shifting of alliances made it extremely difficult to predict future developments on Sudanese territory.

A fragile cease-fire, brokered in 1998 between the government and the SPLM/A,* was extended throughout the year to enable vital humanitarian activities to continue in the Bahr al-Ghazal and the western and central Upper Nile regions. At year's end a negotiated settlement to the fighting between the Sudanese government and the SPLM/A on the one hand, and the government and the NDA* on the other, remained beyond reach.

* SPLM/A: Sudanese People's Liberation Movement/Army

* NDA: National Democratic Alliance, an umbrella group of northern opposition forces including the SPLA

In December, the president of Sudan dissolved Parliament and declared a three-month state of emergency. By the end of the year all federal and national ministers and governors had been asked to resign.

On the international level, normal diplomatic ties were established with Egypt and Ethiopia. An agreement aimed at normalizing relations between Sudan and Uganda was signed in December. This included provisions for the repatriation of Sudanese POWs.

The ICRC's operation in Sudan was one of the organization's largest in Africa. Activities focused on assisting and protecting internally displaced people and residents seriously affected by the 16-year conflict, supporting the war-wounded and civilians to ensure that they received adequate surgical treatment and basic health care, and monitoring the situation of people deprived of their freedom.

In February, two ICRC expatriates, two Sudanese Red Crescent staff and three government officials strayed onto SPLA-held territory and were subsequently detained. Although the two ICRC expatriates were released and one Red Crescent employee managed to escape, the other member of the National Society and the three government officials died. The ICRC strongly voiced its concerns about the outcome of this incident and asked for a full inquiry to shed light on the events.

Low levels of development in tandem with persistent armed conflict often put most southern Sudanese living in the rural, isolated and war-torn parts of the country in a precarious situation. The conflict routinely prevented farmers from working their fields and subsequently from buying essential supplies. Access to safe drinking water and medical services ranged from poor to non-existent in some parts. Moreover, population movements in the western Upper Nile/Unity State put additional strain on a fragile economy and challenged the availability of natural resources. Traditional coping mechanisms were overwhelmed whenever there was an influx of civilians fleeing the fighting.

In view of the precarious situation in Sudan, a country not only plagued by war but also by natural disasters, the ICRC placed considerable emphasis on emergency preparedness. The delegation closely monitored changes in the humanitarian environment and remained at the ready to provide the appropriate swift response. Stocks of emergency non-food kits were pre-positioned in government-held areas in the north and in southern Sudan. These were distributed as needs arose and were regularly replenished. Assistance took the form of medical evacuations of the wounded, both civilian and military, support to local health facilities for the treatment of war casualties, water and sanitation programmes aimed at ensuring access to safe drinking water and preventing the spread of water-borne diseases, and distributions of material assistance, fishing equipment and seeds as appropriate.

The ICRC provided comprehensive care for surgical emergencies and the war-wounded at its two referral hospitals: the 560-bed Lopiding surgical hospital in Lokichokio (northern Kenya) and the government-run Juba Teaching Hospital. Patients were evacuated from southern Sudan to Lopiding and subsequently repatriated by ICRC aircraft following their treatment and convalescence. Training in surgery and preventive health, such as mother and child health care, was given by experienced ICRC personnel to doctors and nurses from the surrounding area and from southern Sudan.

security incident

*the situation of the resident
and displaced populations*

ICRC's emergency response

treating the war-wounded

rehabilitation for the war-disabled

*insufficient medical care
for civilians*

water and habitat

Repairs and improvements were made to the Juba Teaching Hospital, which offered comprehensive surgical care to civilians and the war-wounded. The ICRC delivered medical items on a regular basis to the hospital's surgical wards and pharmacy, mainly drugs and surgical instruments. The Sudanese Red Crescent operated the sewage truck donated by the ICRC to evacuate the hospital's sewage effluent. The ICRC provided food rations to government employees as a work incentive, and an ICRC surgical team worked in the hospital, which served a population of 150,000, and provided training for in-house doctors and those from the surrounding area.

In May, the ICRC signed a cooperation agreement concerning support for the National Centre for Prostheses and Orthoses in Khartoum with the Ministries of Social Planning and of Defence. The ICRC maintained a permanent presence in the centre, paid for repairs and improvements made to the building and equipment, supervised the transport and accommodation of patients coming from outside the city and offered training to employees. The centre served amputees and the disabled coming from government-controlled areas. The prosthetic/orthotic workshop in Lopiding hospital provided prostheses and orthoses for amputees from rebel-held southern Sudan.

The conflict in Sudan has had a particularly damaging effect on medical infrastructure in government- and opposition-held areas. Those health facilities still functioning were all too often inadequate, with damaged surgical structures frequently run by inexperienced medical staff. The delegation's medium-term, "integrated" approach combined preventive and curative medical care. This included vaccination programmes, health education and veterinary projects. The ICRC provided primary health care clinics, such as those in Yirol, Juba, Chelkou, Raja and Wau, health posts and dispensaries with regular supplies in order to improve basic health care. Training and preventive measures were an important component of ICRC medical activities. Health delegates focused on health education, vaccinations, mother and child care, professional training and monitoring activities.

Water and sanitation work was carried out to provide access to safe drinking water and to prevent disease. In many areas, fighting and neglect have either partially or completely destroyed water-supply and sanitation systems. The ICRC was actively involved in drilling boreholes, rehabilitating shallow wells, increasing water-storage capacities, repairing sewage systems and constructing latrines in Bentiu, Yirol, Chelkou, Juba and Wau. Local people were also trained by ICRC engineers in bore-hole drilling, rehabilitating hand-dug wells, the installation of hand pumps and hygiene awareness.

The unstable security situation in Unity State compelled ICRC expatriates to leave Bentiu in June. Nevertheless, delegates returned on a regular basis to ensure that the most essential services remained operational, particularly the production of safe drinking water.

The drilling of a deep well to supply water to several public taps in the El Salam camp for displaced people in Khartoum was handed over to the Sudanese Red Crescent. This was part of a concerted effort by Care International, the Federation, the National Society and others to replace the uneconomic tanker-truck service in the El Salam and El Bashir camps.

encouraging self-sufficiency

visits to detainees

*one of the largest Red Cross
message networks*

Sudanese Red Crescent

In 1998, famine swept across huge areas of southern Sudan. Operation Lifeline Sudan⁴⁸ and organizations such as the ICRC made a concerted effort to bring down the mortality rate among the displaced by rapidly sending in relief supplies and launching feeding programmes. The situation of those affected by the famine improved steadily, so that in 1999 the ICRC was able to focus its attention on post-emergency and rehabilitation activities. These consisted chiefly of a large-scale seeds and tools programme to help internally displaced people and residents re-establish their self-sufficiency and reduce their need for direct assistance. Some 60,000 households (around 300,000 people) in Juba, Wau, Bahr al-Ghazal and the western Upper Nile were targeted to receive crop seed and essential farming implements. Distributions began in March so they could be completed before the onset of the rainy season.

In November, the Nuers from western Upper Nile traditionally move to the nearby swamps with their cattle. As fish is the staple food until the next rains, the ICRC distributed hooks and twine to ensure the population had an adequate diet. Fishing equipment and mosquito nets were also distributed to 6,000 displaced and resident households in the region, and in Wau and Juba.

Delegates conducted visits to detainees held by the SPLM/A in detention camps in southern and eastern Sudan. Owing to problems of direct access partly arising from security constraints, not all visits could be carried out in a timely fashion.

In December, the ICRC visited detainees in southern Blue Nile for the first time. Visits to the detention centre were carried out according to the ICRC's standard procedures.

A detainee released by the SPLA after ten years in captivity was handed over by the SPLM to the ICRC. He was then flown from Lokichokio to Khartoum in an ICRC aircraft and placed in the hands of representatives of the Sudanese government.

In 1999, some 4 million Sudanese were internally displaced, living in camps or as residents in other parts of the country. Some 200,000 refugees from neighbouring countries had sought shelter in Sudan while more than 300,000 Sudanese refugees resided outside the country. In the absence of any postal services or telecommunications, Red Cross messages were the only means by which family members could remain in contact. With a monthly average of 8,000 messages exchanged, the Red Cross message network in Sudan remained one of the largest in the world.

Two tracing programmes were broadcast on Radio Omdurman and Unity Service, transmitting information about the ICRC/Red Crescent tracing programmes in the various languages spoken in Sudan.

Many tracing activities in government-controlled areas were carried out in close cooperation with the Sudanese Red Crescent Society.

Local branches of the Sudanese Red Crescent played a significant role in all aspects of the ICRC's work in government-controlled areas. The ICRC continued to support the Sudanese Red Crescent and its structures at both headquarters and branch level. It gave regular financial and logistical support to all five branches in southern Sudan and to the Kassala and Ed Damazin branches in the north-east.

⁴⁸ A massive relief operation carried out by a consortium of UN agencies and 42 NGOs.

humanitarian law courses for warring parties

In April, a special six-day training workshop was held in Khartoum for information and dissemination officers from 21 Red Crescent branches. Courses highlighting the ICRC's role and mandate were also organized for ICRC and Red Crescent staff members in Khartoum, Juba, Wau and Bentiu. Support to the branches included the preparation, implementation, supervision and financing of community-based first-aid training courses held in Wau, Raja, Juba and Malakal for Red Crescent volunteers.

The ICRC pursued its efforts to promote the systematic inclusion of humanitarian law in training programmes for the armed forces. Training programmes for soldiers/non-commissioned officers, junior and senior officers were revised to incorporate the main provisions of humanitarian law.

Ad hoc sessions and training courses were organized for arms bearers from the main parties to the conflict. These included a three-day course held for the first time since 1996 for SPLA commanders in Bahr al-Ghazal and two two-day courses for SPLA officers. For the first time ever, the ICRC was able to conduct a two-day session for company commanders and non-commissioned officers of the Sudanese armed forces at the government's Jebeid Infantry School. Also for the first time, the ICRC addressed brigadiers at the military academy in Khartoum and police colonels at the police academy. The third basic course on the law of armed conflict for military instructors took place at the Command and Staff College. This was followed by the first advanced course for military instructors.

Other sessions targeted the Popular Defence Forces (government-supported elements), the Southern Sudan Defence Forces (government allies) and the Unified Police Forces in places like Wau, Bentiu and Khartoum.

The first eight-hour module on humanitarian law was held as part of a Masters in Law course on the international protection of the individual.

IN 1999 THE ICRC:



- visited 299 detainees held by the SPLA in 5 detention camps;
- distributed high-protein biscuits, material assistance in the form of soap, clothing, cooking sets, seeds and recreational items, and dressing kits and basic drugs for the detention centres' health facilities;
- assessed the detainees' access to water and distributed purifying tablets as necessary;
- collected and distributed 2,286 Red Cross messages for detainees and their next-of-kin;



- in close cooperation with the Sudanese Red Crescent's network of volunteers and others, exchanged 92,921 Red Cross messages between displaced people, refugees and their families abroad;
- reunited 5 unaccompanied children with their families in Sudan;
- continued to register and monitor the cases of children stranded in Wau since the 1998 famine;



- implemented a major seed and tool programme for some 60,000 families affected by the conflict in southern Sudan;
- distributed 564 tonnes of food and 1,056 tonnes of other assistance to the most vulnerable among the displaced people and residents in conflict areas;
- following the floods in central and northern Sudan which affected over 50,000 people, donated shelter material and blankets to the Sudanese Red Crescent operation for distribution to the neediest inhabitants in Dongola and Juba;



- undertook long-term integrated projects focusing on health, water supply and sanitation and food security in Wau, Juba, Bentiu, Chelkou and Yirol;
- provided support for 7 health centres around Raja in a project delegated to the German Red Cross and in cooperation with the Sudanese Red Crescent;
- supervised and trained local medical staff, provided public health care materials and conducted vaccination campaigns;
- ran the ICRC's Lopiding surgical hospital in Lokichokio (Kenya), which admitted a monthly average of 218 patients from southern Sudan (a total of 2,613 in 1999), many of whom were evacuated by ICRC plane and repatriated following treatment;
- organized a workshop on mother and child health care in Lokichokio for expatriate and local midwives; held a general workshop on primary health care, including mother and child health care, at the hospital for all ICRC health delegates, water and sanitation engineers, agronomists and nutritionists;
- continued to supply essential drugs to Juba Teaching Hospital; admitted and treated 2,718 surgical patients, including 159 war-wounded; provided medical staff with food for work; furnished the services of an expatriate surgical team and carried out construction work on the premises;
- provided medical and surgical supplies to health facilities (clinics or hospitals in Wau, Raja, Ed Damazin, Kassala, Bentiu and Gedaref) on an ad hoc basis;

- provided medicines and medical supplies to military and civilian hospitals and health dispensaries in camps for displaced people in Kassala (north-eastern Sudan) in cooperation with the Sudanese Red Crescent;
- provided assistance to the Yirol primary health care centre and trained nurses and midwives in primary health care and mother and child health;
- supplied primary health care clinics in Juba with medicines, medical equipment and tools and trained medical staff;



- provided support to the National Centre for Prosthesis and Orthoses (Khartoum), which manufactured 531 prostheses and 169 orthoses for 360 patients;
- produced 390 prostheses and 153 orthoses at the prosthetic/orthotic workshop in Lopiding surgical hospital for 265 patients;



- repaired and improved sewage systems and provided access to clean water for hospital patients, displaced people and residents, covering a total of 100,000 people throughout Sudan;
- provided drinking water to people displaced or otherwise affected by the conflict in Sudan and ensured that the inhabitants of Lokichokio had an adequate supply of water during the dry season by maintaining the existing water system;



- provided full support to 5 Sudanese Red Crescent branches in the south (Raja, Wau, Bentiu, Malakal and Juba) and structural and ad hoc support to 2 branches in eastern Sudan (Kassala and Ed Damazin);
- distributed emergency assistance in cooperation with Sudanese Red Crescent branches in the conflict zones in the south and north-east;
- through the Sudanese Red Crescent, distributed food supplies and soap to patients from Sabbah Children's Hospital and children from the Juba orphanage;
- signed a 2-month loan agreement with the Sudanese Red Crescent for a tanker-truck to transport safe drinking water to the flood victims in Dongola and the surrounding area;



- conducted dissemination sessions for military officers (government and SPLA), security officers, police officers, Sudanese Red Crescent volunteers and university students;
- conducted regular dissemination sessions for patients at the ICRC hospital in Lokichokio, focusing on the Movement and the law of armed conflict.

UGANDA



During the year under review, Uganda remained a key player in the Great Lakes and Horn of Africa regions. It continued to be involved in the conflict in the neighbouring Democratic Republic of the Congo, backing armed opposition groups fighting the Congolese government.

In December, a peace agreement was signed by the Ugandan and Sudanese governments. Brokered by the Carter Center in Nairobi, the agreement includes provisions for the repatriation of Sudanese POWs, the reunification of abducted children with their families and pledges to stop supporting each other's armed opposition groups. Just before the agreement was signed, the Ugandan Parliament approved an Amnesty Law which offered all armed opposition groups in and outside the country six months to put an end to their armed opposition "without fear of prosecution".

The plight of Ugandans living in the West Nile region improved in 1999 as a result of peace negotiations between the government and the UNRF II.* Most displaced people from the north-west were able to return to their homes and take steps towards resuming a normal life. Although the security situation was less acute in

* UNRF II: Uganda National Rescue Front II

Acholiland, northern Uganda

dire needs in the south-west

emergency assistance

Acholiland, in northern Uganda, than in previous years, tension mounted at year's end. Armed opposition groups remained active in the south-west, where humanitarian practitioners were often unable to reach the destitute resident and displaced populations because of the lack of security guarantees. The Ugandan capital, for its part, again fell victim to violence when it was rocked by a series of bomb blasts.

The security situation in Acholiland started improving in February and became increasingly stable up until the very last week of the year. Displaced people living in protected camps, set up by the government to regroup the rural population around trading centres protected by the army, enjoyed increased freedom of movement, had regular access to larger tracts of land and were able to plant their seeds at the start of the rainy season. Prospects for the approximately 320,000 displaced people living in various camps in Gulu and Kitgum districts therefore steadily brightened. At the end of December, however, infiltrations by the LRA* were again reported, upsetting the calm.

In November 1998, the ICRC had been forced to suspend most of its humanitarian operations and all field movements in the south-west owing to the lack of security guarantees from all parties.⁴⁹ However, in the light of the tremendous needs of the displaced population and after having obtained the necessary security guarantees, the ICRC resumed its activities in May. The following month it opened an office in Bundibugyo to coordinate its activities in the region. In December, however, the situation deteriorated with an upsurge in the activities of armed opposition groups (ADF*), again forcing the ICRC to evacuate its team for want of security guarantees from all parties to the conflict.

The ongoing conflict between the ADF and the UPDF* troops in the south-west led to the displacement of some 150,000 civilians who sought refuge in 50-odd camps. Living conditions were difficult, with most people lacking appropriate shelter, health facilities and sanitation infrastructure. Such large-scale population movements to camps also affected access to food. The arrival of different groups of Congolese refugees put an additional strain on the scant resources. Basic health care was also lacking in the region for both the resident and displaced populations.

After receiving the necessary security guarantees, the ICRC provided emergency assistance to meet the most urgent shelter and hygiene needs. In Kasese district, the combined effects of a serious drought and a sharp increase in the number of displaced persons put an unbearable strain on resources. The ICRC began food distributions in September to stem the tide of malnutrition and encouraged the displaced and resident populations to use the seeds it had provided for planting. Non-food assistance included the distribution of tools, soap, blankets, tarpaulins and jerrycans. As the harvest was satisfactory, the ICRC was able to suspend its food distributions in early December.

The cramped conditions in the camps resulting from the fresh influx of displaced people led to a severe outbreak of cholera. Within a few days over 300 patients were admitted to Kagando hospital. The death toll was kept relatively low and the outbreak was contained, largely thanks to the hospital's effective case management and out-

* LRA: Lord's Resistance Army

⁴⁹ See the ICRC's 1998 Annual Report, p. 124.

* ADF: Allied Democratic Forces

* UPDF: Uganda People's Defence Forces

*scourge of cholera and malaria
in the south-west*

reach services provided by Red Cross volunteers, substantial material support from the ICRC and efficient coordination between the Ministry of Health, the district health services, NGOs and the Uganda Red Cross.

The health delegate based in Bundibugyo carried out weekly checks on infectious diseases, supported the local dispensaries caring for the displaced population and provided ad hoc assistance to Bundibugyo district hospital. Clinic facilities were improved as necessary and drugs distributed to ensure their smooth running. The ICRC health team launched a cooperation programme with the camp hygiene committees to improve sanitary conditions. A water and sanitation engineer was also employed to upgrade the access to water in this cholera-prone area, particularly in rural camps for the displaced.

The ICRC was able to monitor the health situation in Kilembe valley thanks to frequent contact with the relevant health authorities and the Red Cross branch in Kasese. The major health concern was a severe outbreak of fatal falciparum malaria amongst the displaced population. In addition to the Red Cross health education programme run by the Kasese branch, which received ICRC support, the delegation organized a case-management workshop for the treatment of severe malaria. It also provided oral and injectable medicines for health centres and hospitals in the district.

The ICRC's sub-delegation in Kasese launched a pilot project together with the Uganda Red Cross to study the acceptability of mosquito nets impregnated with insecticide among 350 displaced families in an effort to prevent the insect-borne disease. If the nets are well received and effectively used, a large-scale distribution is planned for the year 2000. The National Society's malaria-awareness programme, which also received ICRC support, was extended until the end of 1999. The ICRC also lent its support to the Uganda Red Cross drama group, which helped to raise community awareness of malaria control.

*helping the displaced
in Acholiland*

In 1999, the ICRC conducted a major seed and tool distribution for displaced people in Acholiland. With the help of Red Cross volunteers, beneficiaries received crop seeds and vegetable kits. The excellent rain patterns ensured an abundant harvest for both displaced people and residents.

The situation of the 350,000 displaced people still living in camps in the region improved considerably as the year progressed, the majority being able to benefit from the agricultural assistance provided by the ICRC to boost their economic security. Many were able to return home and work their fields, while others began agricultural production on their land but returned to the camps at nightfall.

As resettlement movements increased, the need for tools to rebuild homes and till fields became more acute. The ICRC distributed additional tools and vegetable seeds, targeting some 75,000 households among displaced people and vulnerable residents.

Pockets of displaced people in Adjumani district, totalling about 10,000 people, were assisted with the most essential non-food items (tools, blankets, jerrycans, cooking pots and soap) and food rations were provided to tide them over until the next harvest. A similar programme was carried out for pockets of displaced people in the West Nile region.

Although the plight of the displaced people in Acholiland improved over most of the year, the security situation deteriorated rapidly in December and many of those who had left the camps set up for the displaced were obliged to return.

training for local nurses

Staff in local health clinics in Acholiland were under-trained and lacked sufficient resources to implement first-aid programmes or to buy basic medicines to supplement Ministry of Health supplies. The ICRC therefore distributed primary health care medicines to district health structures, including hospitals and dispensaries. It also organized, in cooperation with the district director of the health services, a three-month training course for nursing aids working in the camps for the displaced with a view to upgrading their professional knowledge of case management.

To improve communication between health structures in Acholiland and the Ministry of Health in Kampala, the ICRC funded a one-week training course in Gulu district on monthly reports on health services. The course was intended for those in charge of clinics in areas with a large displaced population.

ICRC vaccination campaigns

Thanks to close monitoring of the health situation in Acholiland, an outbreak of measles in some of the biggest camps in Gulu district was detected in time and the relevant authorities duly informed. The Ministry of Health launched a vaccination programme to prevent an epidemic. In Bibia camp, close to the border with southern Sudan, a diarrhoea outbreak, feared to be cholera, was contained through a rapid joint response by the health authorities and the ICRC. The delegation in Uganda supplied soap, chlorine and jerrycans to improve hygiene and the safety of the area's water supply. In September and October, the ICRC took part in the national polio campaign by giving logistical support to Gulu district health workers.

caring for the sick and wounded

Hospitals in conflict areas did not have the materials or the professional capacity to respond to all the needs of the civilian population let alone any major influx of war-wounded. The ICRC therefore distributed emergency kits containing dressing material, syringes, drugs, gloves and other basic items to hospitals treating the war-wounded.

war-surgery seminar

In July, Hoima district hosted a two-day war-surgery seminar organized by the ICRC in close cooperation with the Ugandan Association of Surgeons. The seminar was attended by military and civilian surgeons working in conflict areas. The Association provided special services in five district hospitals in the region, operating on over 230 patients who otherwise would not have benefited from such expert care.

rehabilitation of amputees

The prosthetic/orthotic centre in Fort Portal operated effectively. The Ministry of Health announced the adoption of ICRC prosthetics/orthotics technology throughout the country. Technicians from Gulu hospital were the first to be trained in the use of that technology at the ICRC centre.

emergency preparedness with the Uganda Red Cross

The National Society, the ICRC's main local partner, required support in improving its emergency-preparedness and response capacity. Six branches in conflict and conflict-prone areas in south-west and northern Uganda began to implement guidelines for disaster-/conflict-preparedness and response, and volunteer recruitment.

As a part of its emergency-preparedness and response programme, the Uganda Red Cross, with the ICRC's support, conducted a ten-day basic first-aid training course for volunteers from these six Red Cross branches. In November, the Gulu branch hosted a regional workshop on emergency preparedness and response for the nine northern branches.

Delegates visited security detainees in military bases, police stations and civilian prisons in accordance with standard ICRC procedures. Detainees included sus-

visits to detainees and POWs

pected members of various opposition groups. Following the bombings in Kampala and subsequent arrests, the ICRC increased the number of visits to places of detention in the capital and its suburbs.

The ICRC kept up its regular visits to Sudanese POWs held in military facilities in Kampala and enabled them to maintain contact with their families in Sudan through Red Cross messages.

Contact was also maintained between security detainees and their next-of-kin thanks to the Red Cross message service, run by the ICRC in cooperation with the Uganda Red Cross Society. Family visits were organized for the families of detainees held in Kampala, Jinja, Katojo and Fort Portal. The ICRC covered the transport and accommodation costs for the visits by the families, most of whom lived in northern Uganda. The delegation provided released detainees with a ticket home (mostly to the West Nile region) and basic material assistance.

The ICRC distributed vegetable seed and gardening implements to prisons in Uganda. The programme, which was carried out for the first time in the country, aimed to supplement prison food supplies. An ICRC agronomist monitored progress on a regular basis.

In September, the ICRC completed its rehabilitation projects in both Luzira Upper and Remand Prisons in Kampala. This included extensive work on the water supply and associated evacuation systems of shower rooms, toilets, washing facilities and kitchens. Elsewhere, the ICRC distributed medical items and medicines on an ad hoc basis to prevent outbreaks of communicable diseases.

the protection of civilians

The ICRC made representations to both the LRA and the UPDF regarding respect for the civilian population caught up in the spiral of violence in Uganda. Cases of violations of international humanitarian law were submitted to the relevant parties.

tracing and dissemination workshops

With the help of the ICRC, the Uganda Red Cross developed an efficient tracing department. In July, the National Society held a joint dissemination and tracing workshop in Kampala for participants from northern and eastern branches. Dissemination and tracing guides were produced and distributed to participants as reference material. The Uganda Red Cross is the first African National Society to publish a dissemination reference guide. A second workshop was held in November, also in Kampala.

The ICRC maintained relations with the UPDF with a view to integrating international humanitarian law into military training. Contact with the armed opposition was limited to the LRA.

training for army instructors

The ICRC trained UPDF officers as instructors in the law of armed conflict. For the first time, three-day sessions for junior officers and non-commissioned officers were held in the 2nd, 3rd and 4th Infantry Divisions. Two three-day basic sessions on the law of armed conflict were also held at the Kabamba and Jinja military training schools. Dissemination sessions for soldiers in the field, including members of the reserve forces in northern Uganda and in the West Nile region, took place on a regular basis.

A series of radio spots and posters was produced in five local languages and in English, focusing on the basic principles of humanitarian law and the obligation of belligerents to respect civilians in all circumstances. The posters targeted arms bearers, particularly armed opposition groups.

first-ever course for the police force

A consultative meeting with 20 senior police officers, drawn mainly from regional posts, training schools and headquarters, was held in Jinja in September under the guidance of the ICRC Police and Security Forces coordinator from Geneva. This was followed by a two-week training course for future instructors, the first time such a course was held in Uganda.

IN 1999 THE ICRC:

- regularly visited some 1,860 people detained for security reasons or in connection with the activities of armed opposition movements and held in 61 places of detention;
- provided detainees with 56.4 tonnes of material assistance and basic medical supplies;
- regularly visited 72 Sudanese POWs held in Kampala and supplied them with clothing, hygiene products and recreational items;
- renovated the water supply and sewage systems and the kitchens in Kampala's prisons;
- initiated a vegetable garden programme and distributed 390 kg vegetable seed to prisons throughout the country;
- handled, partially in cooperation with the Uganda Red Cross, 7,153 Red Cross messages for detainees, their families and Sudanese POWs;
- facilitated family visits for minors and for re-arrested members of the West Nile Bank Front;
- made representations to the parties concerned when acts of violence committed against civilians were brought to its attention;
- helped the Uganda Red Cross run its Red Cross message network for members of families separated by conflict and refugees in the country (some 16,000 Red Cross messages were exchanged);
- registered unaccompanied minors among displaced people and refugees and, with the assistance of the Uganda Red Cross, reunited 2 of them with their families;



EAST AFRICA UGANDA



- provided displaced people in Acholiland in northern Uganda with 794 tonnes of seeds, 274,600 hoes, 74,400 axes, 74,300 machetes and 465 tonnes of soap;
- distributed 122 tonnes of soap, 53,200 blankets, 18,200 tarpaulins, 13,220 cooking pots and 13,950 jerrycans to displaced people and residents in Bundibugyo and Kasese districts in the south-west;



- regularly supplied dressings and surgical materials to private and government hospitals treating war casualties;
- regularly visited and supported health facilities catering to the needs of displaced people in Acholiland and in the south-west, supplying drugs and dressing materials to relieve temporary shortages;
- provided Kampala University Hospital with surgical kits to help treat victims of the bomb blasts in the capital;
- held a war-surgery training course for 63 civilian and military surgeons working in 23 hospitals in conflict areas;
- organized a case-management workshop for the treatment of severe malaria in the south-west;
- in cooperation with the district director of the health services, organized a 3-month training course for 15 nursing aids working in the camps for the displaced;
- funded a 1-week training course on the health management information system (monthly reports on health services), for those in charge of clinics in areas with a substantial displaced population in Gulu district;
- supplied soap, chlorine and jerrycans to improve hygiene and the safety of the water supply in Gulu district to prevent the spread of cholera;
- took part in the national polio campaign by giving logistical support to the Gulu district health authorities;



- continued prosthetic/orthotic work at Fort Portal in western Uganda, which fitted 81 patients (of whom 35 were victims of anti-personnel mines) with 86 prostheses;
- provided training to prosthetic/orthotic technicians from Gulu district;



- upgraded the access to water in cholera-prone areas in the south-west, particularly in rural camps for the displaced;



- supported the Uganda Red Cross, in particular in the areas of tracing, promotion of humanitarian law, emergency preparedness and response;
- whenever possible, involved National Society branches and volunteers in its assistance programmes in conflict zones;
- held two joint dissemination and tracing workshops in Kampala for participants from northern and eastern branches;
- supported a first-aid training course for volunteers from the 6 Red Cross branches in conflict and conflict-prone areas in the north and south-west;
- supported the National Society's cholera and malaria prevention and control programmes;



- trained groups of UPDF officers and policemen to teach the law of armed conflict to new recruits;
- gave dissemination sessions to soldiers and reserve forces, security agencies, religious leaders, members of civil society and Uganda Red Cross volunteers;
- organized dissemination sessions in the conflict areas of Gulu, Kitgum, Arua and Kasese for Red Cross volunteers, branch governing boards, recipients of ICRC/Red Cross relief assistance, teachers and schoolchildren;
- organized dissemination sessions for refugee leaders in Orichinga and Nacivali refugee settlements;
- launched a radio spot and poster campaign in conflict areas with the aim of reaching out to armed opposition groups with a message to respect the life and dignity of the civilian population.

NAIROBI

Regional delegation

(Djibouti, Kenya, Tanzania)

*urban violence and
intercommunal clashes in Kenya*

tension in the north of Kenya

*tracing services for refugees
in Kenya*

*assistance to victims
of violence or famine*

The ICRC's regional delegation in Nairobi had a dual purpose: first, to meet the needs of conflict victims and carry out humanitarian diplomacy in the three countries it covered; and second, to provide logistical services and other specialized support to ICRC operations in the surrounding countries of the Horn of Africa and Great Lakes regions, or even further afield.

Kenya's moves towards political reform brought to light a number of underlying tensions. The process to amend the constitution ground to a halt following disagreements between the ruling KANU* party and opposition groups. External pressure demanded structural reforms to the economy, the privatization of large sectors of State industry and a determined fight against corruption. Economic tension and its consequences were readily expressed in public outbursts of violence. The centre of the country's tourism trade, Coast province, witnessed a spate of violence which began in December 1998 and persisted until the end of 1999, despite the increased security presence. In addition, ethnic clashes over land rights, cattle rustling and water sources continued to occur sporadically in rural areas, notably in Pokot and Marakwet in western Kenya, and also in Turkana in the north. These resulted in civilian victims and population displacements.

In the north, clashes were reported between the Ethiopian army and rebels of the Oromo movement. Tension also flared at the Kenya-Somalia border, which was closed for an undetermined period because of alleged arms trafficking, and all commercial flights were suspended between Kenya and Somalia. Humanitarian flights were allowed to operate under a strict clearance process.

Turkana district in the northern Rift Valley province experienced a serious famine, the consequence chiefly of a prolonged drought and insecurity linked to frequent Pokot incursions into Turkana by cattle raiders.

Some 200,000 refugees (Burundians, Congolese, Ethiopians, Rwandans, Somalis and Sudanese) had sought refuge in Kenya. Although their numbers were on the decline, many had not yet returned to their homes and remained in Kenya's urban areas and in refugee camps in northern Kenya.

The ICRC, in cooperation with the Kenya Red Cross, enabled refugees to contact their families via Red Cross messages. The ICRC also provided the financial support allowing the Kenya Red Cross to set up a tracing office in the newly created camp in Kakuma. This camp, the third of its kind in northern Kenya, was opened to house the large influx of Sudanese and Somali refugees. Members of the Kenya Red Cross tracing department took part in various workshops aimed at sharing practical field experience with neighbouring National Societies.

Clashes in the Wajir district of north-east Kenya at the end of 1998 prompted the flight of 4,000 people. Food stocks in the entire region were severely depleted and a drought was looming. Between January and April 1999, the ICRC and Kenya Red Cross distributed food and non-food supplies to 880 destitute families.

Violent disturbances at the beginning of 1999 in Nguma, in Coast province, led to the displacement of 200 families, who were also assisted with food and non-food supplies.

Following clashes along the Rift Valley between the Pokots and Marakwets on the one hand, and the Pokots and Turkanas on the other, the ICRC provided medical

* KANU: Kenya African National Union

water-supply projects

working with the Kenya Red Cross Society

promotion of international humanitarian law

equipment, drugs and materials to six hospitals and four dispensaries treating the casualties.

The ICRC worked with three communities to help repair a dispensary in Kuerisoi, construct a maternity unit in Kamawaura and renovate the Kaibei dispensary. The ICRC met 70 % of the construction costs, the remainder being raised by the local community.

Following a series of mine incidents on the Kenya/Ethiopia border, the ICRC donated physiotherapy and prosthetic/orthotic equipment and materials to Moyale District Hospital for the treatment of landmine victims.

The ICRC provided logistical support for Red Cross first-aid activities for the victims of the urban violence which broke out in Nairobi during the reading of the budget in June.

In rural areas of Kenya, pastoral and farming communities often shared limited water resources. This frequently resulted in tension, outbreaks of violence and damage to community infrastructure. Moreover, the use of water supplies in some places by both humans and livestock facilitated the spread of endemic water-borne diseases.

The ICRC therefore programmed water-supply rehabilitation activities in Pokot, Marakwet and Eastern Baringo, in a project delegated to the American Red Cross. The project included the rehabilitation of gravity water systems, the digging of shallow wells and the sinking of boreholes.

The ICRC also drew up a water-source development and dam rehabilitation project in Laikipia, which it delegated to the Swedish Red Cross. Work included the rehabilitation of four dams and the drilling of new boreholes to increase access to water for some 38,000 people and thereby ease the tension between various tribes.

The ICRC focused its cooperation with the Kenya Red Cross on capacity-building. It monitored the income-generating activities of four branches receiving ICRC technical and financial support. The delegation also helped the National Society recruit dissemination officers for three regional offices and organized training for the newly recruited dissemination coordinator. The ICRC helped to strengthen the National Society's emergency-preparedness and response capacities by holding a number of workshops for Red Cross staff and volunteers, government officials and NGO representatives in Coast province and in Embu.

In January, a course on "Society and international humanitarian law" was incorporated into the compulsory syllabus for all undergraduates at Kenya's Egerton University. The course, the first of its kind in East Africa, was delivered by six lecturers with the assistance of expert tutors provided by the ICRC. The ICRC also helped adapt the course for inclusion in a distance-learning programme developed by the University and the Department of Defence and aimed at officers of the Kenyan armed forces. Efforts were also made to reinforce the teaching of humanitarian law at the Law Faculties of Moi University and of Dar Es Salaam University in Tanzania.

"Flowers in the Morning Sun",⁵⁰ a play commissioned by the ICRC and written by a celebrated Kenyan playwright, was performed in rural communities affected by ethnic clashes. The play's message is to promote respect for human life and dignity during internal disturbances. Audiences included the victims of ethnic strife, arms

⁵⁰ See the ICRC's 1998 Annual Report, p. 131.

*promoting membership
of international treaties*

*family messages
for refugees in Tanzania*

bearers, community leaders, local administration officials, and police and prison authorities. The play also toured Tanzania, starting with Dar es Salaam University and then continuing on to western Tanzania, where it was staged in the camps housing refugees from Burundi and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. A video version was produced and distributed in Kenya to military outposts, training colleges, universities, schools and religious groups.

The ICRC's Advisory Service⁵¹ had a delegate based in Nairobi to encourage the region's countries to ratify humanitarian law treaties and to incorporate their provisions into domestic legislation. Partly as a result of those efforts, the Republic of Kenya acceded to the two 1977 Protocols additional to the Geneva Conventions in February 1999.

In June, a national seminar in Mombasa brought together representatives from various Ministries and Departments of the Office of the President, the Kenya Law Society, the Standing Committee on Human Rights, academics and members of the Kenya Red Cross. Organized jointly by the Attorney General and the ICRC, the seminar reviewed Kenya's national implementation of its obligations under humanitarian law treaties and conventions. Recommendations included the swift ratification of the Ottawa landmines treaty, the 1980 UN Conventional Weapons Convention, the 1954 Hague Convention on Cultural Property and the 1976 Environmental Modification Techniques Convention. Particular emphasis was placed on the need to ratify the Statute of the International Criminal Court, which Kenya subsequently signed in New York in August, and to recognize the competence of the International Fact-Finding Commission.

As a follow-up to this seminar, the ICRC, in cooperation with the authorities, organized a consultative workshop in Nyeri in October on the ratification and implementation of the Ottawa treaty. The Minister of Foreign Affairs, who attended the workshop, expressed the government's willingness to ratify the treaty.

The fighting in the Democratic Republic of the Congo led waves of refugees to seek asylum in the Kigoma region, and thousands continued to flee the violence in Burundi. At year-end, Tanzania was sheltering some 100,000 Congolese refugees, 276,000 Burundian refugees and 20,000 Rwandan refugees.

The Nairobi delegation continued to support the Tanzania Red Cross in handling the exchange of family messages, mainly for the refugee population, between Tanzania and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, in particular southern Kivu, and between Tanzania and Rwanda. Delegates continued to visit the Tanzania Red Cross tracing offices located in the refugee camps in Kasulu, Kibondo and Ngara (north-west Tanzania). In an effort to concentrate on the most needy, the ICRC and the Tanzania Red Cross focused their tracing activities on unaccompanied minors. The names of newly registered unaccompanied minors were entered in the ICRC's database and inter-camp family reunifications were carried out for Burundian, Congolese and Rwandan unaccompanied minors, sometimes after a separation of up to six years.

The ICRC conducted visits to individuals accused of genocide or war crimes and being held in the detention facility of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda in Arusha, Tanzania.

⁵¹ See pp. 351-353.

visits to detainees

In June, the ICRC was granted access for the first time to people detained on the island of Zanzibar on charges of treason. The visit was carried out in accordance with ICRC standard procedures and the delegates' findings were discussed with the authorities in charge.

On the Tanzanian mainland, the ICRC visited Mwisa camp in the Kagera region to assess the material conditions and treatment of the people being held there. Among those detained were people alleged to be foreign combatants and foreign nationals with no refugee status. Following the round-up of refugees in Kigoma, a large number were sent to prison. The ICRC negotiated the exchange of family messages in the three prisons in the Kigoma district and delegates were able to conduct the first visit to these detention centres in December.

safe water

Following severe outbreaks of cholera in the three main prisons of Dar es Salaam, delegates made follow-up visits to three water rehabilitation projects to provide safe water for some 3,000 prisoners in Keko, Segerea and Utonga. Work on the projects was completed in cooperation with the prison authorities.

The ICRC, together with the Tanzania Red Cross, also conducted a water and habitat project in four villages for some 10,000 families in Zanzibar (Pemba and Ugunja islands). Wells, latrine blocks and washing slabs were constructed.

surgical facilities for the war-wounded

The ICRC handed over basic medical and surgical material to the Maweni regional hospital in Kigoma for the treatment of Burundian and Congolese war-wounded. It financed the treatment of severely wounded patients in a mission hospital in Kigoma. Following an ICRC evaluation, this hospital became the referral structure for difficult war-surgery cases. The nurse in charge of war-wounded patients followed a seven-week surgical training course at the ICRC's hospital in Lokichokio. Staff at the two hospitals took a course on ICRC activities and the Fundamental Red Cross Principles.

law of armed conflict

High-ranking officers of the Tanzanian People's Defence Forces confirmed that the law of armed conflict would be incorporated into its training curriculum as from the year 2000. To this end, a one-week training course on the law of armed conflict was conducted for training officers. It should be recalled that Tanzanian soldiers regularly participate in peace-keeping operations.

Red Cross messages for refugees in Djibouti

In Djibouti, the ICRC focused on the plight of some 20,000 Somali refugees from Somaliland and 700 Ethiopian refugees who had been in Djibouti since 1990. The ICRC tracing network continued to serve as the only means of contact for most of the refugees in the country.

visits to security detainees in Djibouti

Delegates carried out regular visits to security detainees in Gabode's central prison in Djibouti and provided inmates with blankets and hygiene items. Security detainees who conducted a hunger strike at the prison were visited by an ICRC delegate accompanied by a health delegate. In December, the ICRC organized a general disinfection of the prison.

care for the war-wounded and Djibouti army veterans

ICRC delegates also visited war-wounded detainees belonging to the FRUD* opposition group who were hospitalized in Peletier.

The delegation set up a medical stock in Djibouti enabling the war-wounded and landmine casualties in Peletier hospital to receive medicines and hygiene articles.

* FRUD: "Front pour la Restauration de l'Unité et de la Démocratie"

Nairobi as a regional hub

Amputee veterans from the Djibouti army were transferred to Addis Ababa for the replacement of their prostheses. In addition, the Djibouti office handled the necessary materials for the ICRC's prosthetic/orthotic centre in Hargeisa, Somaliland.

Acting as a regional hub, the Nairobi delegation provided essential services for other ICRC operations, including nutritional, agricultural, veterinary and water and sanitation expertise, dissemination to the armed forces, the procurement and management of emergency stocks, transport services, staff and administrative support, tracing, logistics and media and donor liaison. The well-developed infrastructure in Nairobi enabled the regional delegation to provide emergency humanitarian assistance at short notice anywhere in the region, throughout Africa and even in Kosovo, the Caucasus and East Timor.

IN 1999 THE ICRC:



- carried out 2 visits to the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda detention facility in Tanzania, registering 7 new detainees;
- visited 18 detainees on Zanzibar island for the first time and 72 internees/detainees held at the Mwsa camp in Kagera, Tanzania;
- in Djibouti, carried out 4 visits to 46 security detainees in Gabode central prison; supplied the prison with hygiene products and blankets;
- visited, on two separate occasions, 5 war-wounded detainees belong to the FRUD opposition group who were hospitalized in Peletier;



- supported the tracing activities of the Kenya Red Cross, which exchanged 53,087 Red Cross messages between refugees and their families in their countries of origin;
- with the Tanzania Red Cross, continued the tracing programme for Congolese, Burundian and Rwandan refugees, handling 38,683 Red Cross messages on their behalf throughout Tanzania;
- with the assistance of the Tanzania Red Cross, conducted 301 inter-camp reunifications of refugees separated as a result of conflict in neighbouring countries;
- continued to serve as the main means of communication for Somalis and Ethiopians in refugee camps in Djibouti, exchanging 2,145 Red Cross messages on their behalf in cooperation with the National Societies of the countries where their relatives were living;



- in cooperation with the Kenya Red Cross, distributed 587 tonnes of food and 18.7 tonnes of material assistance to displaced people and other vulnerable groups in Kenya;
- distributed high-energy biscuits to 13 feeding centres managed by the Kenyan Department of Social Services;



- donated basic medical and surgical materials to Lodwar hospital and other hospitals and dispensaries along the Rift Valley in Kenya;
- distributed medical and surgical supplies to Maweni Regional Hospital in Kigoma, Tanzania;
- in cooperation with the local community in Kenya, made repairs to a dispensary in Kuerisoi, helped to build a maternity unit in Kamawaura and carried out renovation work at the Kaibei dispensary;



- launched a number of water-supply and sanitation projects in Kenya, notably in Nakuru, Laikipia, Kerio, Pokot, Marakwet and East Baringo; delegated 2 water-supply projects to the American and Swedish Red Cross Societies;
- together with the Tanzania Red Cross, conducted a water and habitat project in four villages for some 10,000 families in Zanzibar (Pemba and Ugunja islands);
- completed, in cooperation with the prison authorities, 3 water rehabilitation projects providing safe water for some 3,000 prisoners in Dar es Salaam's three main prisons (Keko, Segerea and Utonga);



- built up the capacity of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in the region in the areas of dissemination, tracing and conflict preparedness;
- worked with the respective National Societies in the area covered by the delegation to organize events and activities marking the 50th anniversary of the Geneva Conventions;
- provided logistical support for Kenya Red Cross first-aid activities for the victims of urban violence in Nairobi;
- helped equip an office at the Kenya Red Cross Nakuru branch;
- funded the renovation of a Tanzania Red Cross building in Zanzibar;
- provided logistics and management support for an ICRC workshop held in Djibouti for 50 dissemination and tracing officers from the Somali Red Crescent Society;



- organized 4 courses for 2,268 members of the security forces and military officers and cadets and 7 courses for 197 senior officers of the 3 Kenyan armed forces;
- produced an English/Kiswahili version of the "Code of Conduct for Combatants" and a first-aid guide for distribution to some 10,000 troops in both Kenya and Tanzania;
- distributed the illustrated proverbs of eight ethnic groups in Kenya to various communities in troubled areas, thereby depicting humanitarian issues in the light of local culture;
- supported 4 Kenyan University Red Cross Clubs in Maseno, Moi and Egerton, and the new United States International University Club;
- distributed some 10,000 copies of a book on the protection afforded to children by humanitarian law in times of unrest to schools located in conflict-prone areas in Kenya;
- held a 1-week training course on international humanitarian law in Dar es Salaam for 22 senior training officers of the Tanzanian People's Defence Forces;
- presented the "So Why?" campaign and its local version to Somali teachers in the UNHCR refugee camp of Ali Adde, Djibouti;
- in cooperation with the "Centre National de Recherche, d'Information et de Production de l'Education Nationale" (CRIPEN), carried out the first phase of a project comprising education modules for young people in Djibouti;
- helped the ICRC specialist for dissemination to the armed and security forces carry out evaluation missions in the Republic of the Congo and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and advised an instructor from the Nairobi-based pool of military instructors with regard to teaching missions in Rwanda, Sudan and Uganda.



ASIA AND THE PACIFIC



This apparently tranquil scene is deceptive. The landmines left behind after the war threaten lives and hamper the return to self-sufficiency. Through its mine-awareness programmes, the ICRC works to reduce the risk of mine injury around the world.

ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

South and Central Asia

ICRC delegations:

Afghanistan, Pakistan,
Sri Lanka, Tajikistan

ICRC regional delegation:

New Delhi, Tashkent

South-east Asia and the Far East

ICRC delegations:

Cambodia, Myanmar

ICRC regional delegations:

Bangkok, Jakarta, Manila

Staff

ICRC expatriates¹: 201

National Societies¹: 65

Local employees²: 2,139

Total Expenditure:

Sfr 263,837,912.77

Expenditure breakdown:

Protection: 16,020,910.90

Assistance: 66,300,866.87

Preventive action: 10,524,813.19

Cooperation with National

Societies: 6,487,786.43

Overheads: 6,627,236.00

General: 9,180,525.02



⊕ ICRC regional delegation ⊕ ICRC delegation

¹ Average figures calculated on an annual basis.

² Under ICRC contract, as at December 1999.

The upsurge of violence in East Timor dominated humanitarian operations in Asia in 1999. The ICRC, present in East Timor since 1979, had closely monitored the rise in tension as it continued to implement its health, protection and water and sanitation programmes before the independence ballot in August. In anticipation of the crisis, it built up its emergency stocks and worked to strengthen the Indonesian Red Cross emergency response capacity. When the violence exploded in September, the ICRC compound in Dili was attacked and expatriate staff forced to leave. The resulting setback to operations was only temporary, though, and the ICRC was nonetheless able to return to Dili promptly and to capitalize on its established networks and contacts, rapidly mounting extensive tracing and assistance activities to help the hundreds of thousands of victims of the conflict.

The crisis in East Timor was but one of the serious political, economic, ethnic and religious crises that plagued the Indonesian archipelago during the year. In cooperation with the Indonesian Red Cross the ICRC also met needs arising from outbursts of violence in the Moluccas, West Kalimantan and Aceh. Although the ICRC took advantage of the country's new spirit of democratization and reform, and expanded its dissemination activities to the Indonesian armed forces, the new political atmosphere had not, by the end of the year, removed all of the limitations to humanitarian work in the archipelago's areas of conflict. Owing to mounting violence in the Moluccas, the ICRC was not able to resume its presence there after a joint ICRC/PMI* assistance programme came to an end in June. The Jakarta delegation continued to urge the Indonesian authorities to allow the ICRC to conduct its humanitarian operations in all areas affected by violence.

A sudden outbreak of violence in Guadalcanal, in the Solomon Islands, required a rapid humanitarian response in June 1999. In operations directed out of the Manila regional delegation, the ICRC cooperated with the Solomon Islands Red Cross Society to provide transport, relief supplies and protection to the victims of intercommunal tension there.

The demands of these sudden outbursts of violence did not lead the ICRC to neglect its activities in countries caught up in prolonged conflicts. The destruction and economic collapse brought about by decades of war have rendered the Afghan people progressively more dependent on international assistance, forcing humanitarian practitioners to question their role in a situation of perpetual conflict. With this in mind, the ICRC focused on assistance strategies designed to rebuild the population's self-sufficiency.

No settlement was reached in the struggle between the government and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) in Sri Lanka. In major battles in November 1999, the LTTE regained nearly all of the territory that it had lost over the previous two years. The ICRC's role as a neutral intermediary and its relief and protection programmes were an essential factor in the survival of populations affected by the hostilities, but its extensive efforts to spread knowledge of humanitarian law and principles, particularly with regard to fighters "hors de combat" and medical care for all wounded combatants, met with limited success.

In Kashmir, the state of tension between India and Pakistan persisted. During the Kargil crisis, the ICRC gained access to prisoners of war captured in the fighting, and

* PMI: "Palang Merah Indonesia" (Indonesian Red Cross)

was able to perform its role in situations of international conflict. While continuing to visit detainees held in connection with the prevailing situation in Jammu and Kashmir, it was increasingly hamstrung in gaining access to them under the terms specified in its Memorandum of Understanding with the Indian government. It requested a round table discussion to talk about these problems with the relevant authorities.

Broadened access to detainees held in connection with the Maoist insurgency in Nepal led to an expansion of ICRC detention activities there.

In Asia, the ICRC's most important breakthrough in 1999 came in Myanmar, where it began visits to detainees, expanded its presence to Mon and Kayin states, and established an office to manage its activities in Shan state. In China, there were no new developments in discussions on access to categories of detainees coming under the ICRC's remit. In spite of numerous missions to the Korean peninsula, the ICRC made no progress in its efforts to convince the authorities there to take a humanitarian approach to the issue of families separated since the Korean conflict.

In Cambodia, the completion of the repatriation of refugees from Thailand and significant progress toward political normalization reduced the need for ICRC activities. Staff and programmes were scaled down as needs shifted to the fields of development and human rights.

In 1999, Tajikistan made considerable progress toward peace, as most of the opposition's armed wings disarmed and various points of the peace agreement were implemented. These political advances had a limited impact on the population, as the economy and infrastructure remained too weak to allow a recovery of self-sufficiency. In the areas hardest hit by the fighting, living conditions remained too precarious to permit a withdrawal of humanitarian support, and the ICRC maintained most of its activities.

Australia, Cambodia, Malaysia, New Zealand, the Solomon Islands and Tajikistan ratified the Ottawa treaty banning landmines in 1999, and India and Tajikistan ratified additional international treaties on weapons control. In Central Asia, the formation of new States presented the ICRC with a special opportunity to promote the incorporation of humanitarian law into new legislation, and in 1999 Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan established national committees for the implementation of humanitarian law. In the countries of Central Asia, as in other areas that were formerly part of the Soviet Union, the ICRC focused on promoting humanitarian values among young people.

In the Far East, the ICRC worked in 1999 to develop a regional approach to strengthening the application of humanitarian law. It helped plan and present the first ASEAN* Regional Forum seminar on international humanitarian law, which was organized and co-sponsored by the Australian government and the ICRC.

* ASEAN: Association of South-East Asian Nations

SOUTH AND CENTRAL ASIA AFGHANISTAN

AFGHANISTAN

PROTECTION

1,757,011

ASSISTANCE

33,629,442

PREVENTIVE ACTION

924,347

COOPERATION WITH THE NATIONAL SOCIETY

1,965,564

OVERHEADS

2,071,052

GENERAL

903,293

TOTAL EXPENDITURE Sfr 41,250,709



⊕ ICRC delegation ⊕ ICRC sub-delegation + ICRC presence ▽ Prosthetic/orthotic centre/workshop

After a calm winter, hopes for progress toward peace in Afghanistan were frustrated when the Taliban withdrew from UN-sponsored peace talks in Ashgabat. Fighting broke out around Bamyán soon after and was followed by a Taliban troop build-up in Kabul and along the Shamali and Tagab front lines. A final attempt to forestall the imminent offensive was made in the July '6 plus 2'* meeting in Tashkent, but this, too, was unsuccessful.

In late July, Taliban forces advanced through the Shamali Plain up to Gulbahar, but were soon pushed back by a surprise counterattack in which northern coalition troops reclaimed most of the Shamali. This front line had stabilized by mid-August and remained relatively calm through the end of the year. The Taliban launched another offensive to the north of Taloqan in September, and by late October had gained complete control of the province of Kunduz after capturing two main districts bordering Tajikistan. Clashes continued in the north until the end of the year, with repeated Taliban air strikes reported in Taloqan.

* Six neighbouring countries plus Russia and the United States

peace initiatives founder

SOUTH AND CENTRAL ASIA AFGHANISTAN

*heavy casualties
and massive displacements*

population polarized

paralysed economy

return of the UN

*increasing isolation
from international community*

improved access to detainees

improving self-sufficiency

The fighting resulted in little net change in the control of territory, but nevertheless inflicted heavy casualties, forced the displacement of large groups of civilians and generated many allegations of violations of humanitarian law committed by all sides. Concurrently, hit-and-run guerilla fighting persisted around the Mazar-i-Sharif area, claiming civilian lives and compromising security in the region.

The increasing polarization between the warring sides increased ethnic tension within communities, presenting a risk of reprisals and other rights violations even in areas untouched by combat. The ICRC continued to monitor the situation of civilian populations and to make representations to the authorities concerned regarding violations of humanitarian law.

The continued fighting paralysed the social and economic life of the country, draining the resources needed to rehabilitate infrastructure and institutions that had been destroyed or had deteriorated through two decades of war: roads and buildings were not being repaired even in areas securely controlled by the Taliban. Workers were rarely paid for their work, and when they were, their wages were usually well below the minimal survival needs of a family. In Kabul, the water distribution system functioned at less than 20% of its pre-war capacity. In rural areas, the destruction and deterioration of irrigation systems has rendered potentially arable land useless.

In 1998, American air strikes on suspected terrorist training sites and other security problems had prompted all UN agencies and most NGOs to withdraw from Afghanistan. During 1999 a number of these organizations began a cautious and limited return.

Afghanistan's isolation from the international community was deepened in 1999 by the sanctions imposed on the Taliban under UN Resolution 1267. The sanctions, which took effect in November, banned Taliban-controlled aircraft from takeoff and landing and froze Taliban assets abroad.

As the ICRC's access to areas of north Afghanistan improved, delegates were able to resume visits to detainees in Mazar-i-Sharif and Bamyan. After being blocked for two years by poor security conditions, ICRC teams were able to return to Kunduz to visit detainees there. In most areas, delegates were given regular access to detainees held in connection with the conflict, and to especially vulnerable detainee groups like women and children. There were only occasional problems gaining access to detainees, most notably in Herat and Kandahar. The ICRC improved health conditions in the prisons by building or repairing water and sanitation facilities and providing prison medical services with medications and other supplies. Released detainees were given financial and logistic support for their return home, and the ICRC financed visits to detainees by families who had to travel long distances.

By maintaining relations with both sides in the conflict, the ICRC was able to perform its traditional role of neutral intermediary, facilitating dialogue, the exchange of emissaries and the crossline transport of released prisoners and mortal remains.

The ICRC has been working to help victims of the war in Afghanistan for over 20 years, and has maintained an uninterrupted presence there since 1987; it remains deeply committed to helping the Afghan people survive the effects of protracted conflict. In recent years, with authorities who have little experience in government and who place priorities on military gains rather than on economic recovery, humanitarian organizations have begun to ask themselves whether their programmes have

agricultural programmes

urban population hardest hit

improving health conditions

thousands flee fighting

helping families stay in touch

become substitutes for the government. To avoid fostering dependency and feeding a situation of perpetual conflict, ICRC programmes focused in 1999 on rebuilding the population's self-sufficiency and on developing programme sustainability.

Since the majority of Afghanistan's population is involved in farming, agricultural programmes offer great potential for improving self-sufficiency. The ICRC helped bolster the food production capacity of entire areas by continuing its programmes for tool production, establishing of fruit and vegetable nurseries, plant protection, tree planting, seed distribution, rehabilitation of irrigation systems and livestock vaccination. Canal rehabilitation employed thousands of Afghans in a food-for-work project that increased available arable land. Crop yields were improved by the distribution of seeds, tools, pesticides and fertilizer. In a project in Badghis delegated to the German Red Cross, canals were cleaned, seeds were distributed and saplings planted, wheat flour was given to 2,000 of the poorest families in exchange for over 37 tonnes of insect pests that they had collected by hand.

In spite of the difficulties in rural areas, those hardest hit by the general economic collapse were urban populations. In 1999 the ICRC continued its food distribution to families headed by widows or handicapped persons in Kabul, at the same time searching for ways to increase their self-sufficiency. In one project, vulnerable families were provided with chickens, vegetable seeds and gardening tools. In a pilot project, the delegation distributed "Silo bread", a dark bread which, despite its high nutritional value, is less suited to Afghan tastes than the traditional local bread. This "self-targeting strategy", aimed at attracting only those who have no other choice, automatically selects the most needy. In cooperation with the Afghan Red Crescent Society, the ICRC also supported vocational training projects for orphans and young family breadwinners.

The ICRC continued to improve urban health conditions by building or repairing latrines, wells, and refuse containers in five districts of Kabul. Authorities at the neighbourhood and municipal level were encouraged to assume greater responsibility for informing the public about the proper use of latrines, and health education sessions on the subject were held for students and heads of households.

The heavy fighting in Shamali and in the north-east led to the displacement of thousands of people in the Shamali and Panjshir Valleys and in Takhar, Kunduz and Bamyan. The ICRC distributed food and household hygiene articles to displaced families and returnees in these regions and in Kabul.

By the end of 1999, most of the people who had fled from the area around Bala-Murghab to Herat in 1997 had returned home. The ICRC community-based assistance programme which was developed to encourage their return to the region was successfully completed, and the office in Petaw which had managed activities in favour of this population was closed.

Continued displacements increased the need for Red Cross tracing services. In October, the ICRC was able to offer 14,000 newly displaced people in Kabul the chance to contact relatives by means of Red Cross messages. There being no functional postal system in the country the Red Cross message system, which is now run by the Afghan Red Crescent Society, remains an important means for families dispersed by the conflict to keep in touch.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL ASIA AFGHANISTAN

helping earthquake victims

*improving surgical care
for the war-wounded*

artificial limbs for amputees

An earthquake hit Wardak and Logar in February, causing great material damage but little loss of life. The components of the Red Cross Movement worked well together to provide relief to families affected by the quake.

The ICRC continued to assist medical facilities caring for war-wounded and other surgical patients around the country. Extensive and regular support including surgical materials and equipment, water and sanitation improvement and other basic maintenance, fuel, and staff allowances were provided to the surgical departments in five major hospitals. Efforts were made to encourage authorities to take greater responsibility for these five facilities, but the continued weakness of the medical infrastructure and the increased demands brought about by the intensification of the conflict in the second half of the year made this hope unrealistic. The delegation also gave ad hoc assistance to ten other hospitals, nine of them in the north, and over 20 minor medical facilities which provided surgery for the war-wounded. Although its crossline flights to Baghram were blocked by the renewal of fighting in July, the ICRC continued to deliver medical goods overland to the north, via either the Anjuman Pass or the Taghab valley, using trucks and when this was impossible, donkeys. When fighting broke out in Taloqan, more than three tonnes of medical cargo were delivered by air and road to the hospital there.

First contacts were made with the authorities with the goal of setting up a national coordinating committee for health, but the absence of other humanitarian players and the immediate priorities of the authorities concerned slowed progress toward this goal.

Deliveries of medical material to the Panjshir Valley and Shamali Plain continued to be problematic in 1999. Owing to the fighting in the area, the three hospitals in Shamali were closed, and the ICRC increased its aid to the two hospitals it supports in Panjshir Valley, to help them care for the resulting influx of patients.

The four ICRC prosthetic centres in Herat, Jalalabad, Kabul and Mazar-i-Sharif continued to produce and fit artificial limbs for mine victims and other patients, including victims of poliomyelitis. The prosthetic/orthotic components produced were used not only in the facilities in Afghanistan, but were also sent from Kabul to Dushanbe for use in ICRC programmes there. In Kabul, the ICRC continued its programme to monitor and provide home care for paraplegics in order to decrease medical complications and support their reintegration into their families and communities.

Since mines and increased fighting blocked access to existing centres, patients in the Panjshir and Shamali areas were unable to get prosthetic/orthotic services. Part of Gulbahar hospital was therefore rehabilitated to create a temporary orthotic/prosthetic centre for patients in areas not under Taliban control. The centre, staffed by technicians and physiotherapists recruited from the other four ICRC centres, had just begun treating and fitting patients in July when the offensive forced it to close. Improved security conditions permitted it to reopen in November. Of the 239 staff members employed in five ICRC orthotic/prosthetic centres, more than half were themselves disabled and 30 were women. The Afghan Red Crescent Society played an important part in locating patients and referring them to the centres.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL ASIA AFGHANISTAN

mine information

The Mine Information Project, which collates information on mine injuries collected in ICRC treatment centres, was extended to health structures in Mazar-i-Sharif and Pul-i-Khumri. Information was shared with other agencies to help plan future mine-clearance activities.

*working together with Red
Cross/Red Crescent partners*

The ICRC could not have carried out its activities in Afghanistan without the support of the Afghan Red Crescent Society, which also ran its own relief distributions and food-for-work projects with financial and material assistance from the ICRC. In a project delegated by the ICRC, the Netherlands Red Cross assisted the Afghan Red Crescent Society marastoon (home for the destitute) programme, and in 1999 started discussing a new agreement with the National Society for the purpose of developing marastoon's autonomy and sustainability.

The ICRC and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies are working together to help the Afghan Red Crescent Society build its operational capacity and uphold the principles of the Red Cross/Red Crescent Movement. The growing influence of the Taliban on the National Society has been of particular concern. In a joint evaluation of support for Afghan Red Crescent programmes, the ICRC and the Federation decided to shift from general and wide-ranging support to a more focused approach in which support was directly linked to specific programmes and activities. This prompted the redrafting of agreements between the National Society, the Federation and the ICRC.

spreading humanitarian values

With a view to instilling respect for the principles of humanitarian law at all levels of society, sessions on humanitarian law and principles were presented at checkpoints, in military bases and in schools, and were attended by the local authorities, displaced people, students, and commanders and fighters from both sides. Contacts were made with the Ministry of Education in order to establish a programme teaching basic humanitarian law in religious schools, and sessions were held in Koranic schools in Kandahar, Jalalabad and Kabul province. As part of the "People on War" campaign, questionnaires were distributed and interviews conducted around the country in order to give the public a chance to air its views about the many facets of war. Media contacts were maintained and press releases issued to inform the public about important humanitarian issues.

IN 1999 THE ICRC:



- visited 8,024 detainees in 78 places of detention (4,300 for the first time), including 32 women and 306 minors, distributing bedding, clothing and hygiene articles to them;
- distributed 3,570 family messages to detainees and collected 6,599 messages for distribution to their relatives;



- with the Afghan Red Crescent Society, collected 8,265 Red Cross messages and distributed 5,719 to family members separated by the conflict;



- in Kabul, distributed more than 13,700 tonnes of food and 495 tonnes of other assistance to nearly 22,000 families headed by widows or handicapped people and to orphanages and other institutions serving vulnerable people;
- distributed more than 1,600 tonnes of food and 152 tonnes of other assistance to over 23,000 displaced and returnee families from other parts of the country;
- distributed 153 tonnes of shelter material to families affected by an earthquake in Wardak;
- in cooperation with the National Society, reclaimed 102,000 hectares of arable land for use by over 113,000 farmers by repairing irrigation systems in food-for-work projects that employed over 29,000 people;
- distributed 777 tonnes of food in food-for-work schemes such as those mentioned above;
- distributed over 2,100 tonnes of seed and 106,000 saplings to some 45,000 farmers, and sets of locally-made farming implements to about 20,000 families;
- provided insecticides and fungicides to improve the crop yields of around 10,000 families;
- provided medicines, equipment, funds to pay salaries and vaccines to a veterinary clinic in the Panjshir Valley that treated over 7,000 domestic animals and vaccinated 19,000;
- rehabilitated a Ministry of Agriculture veterinary vaccine production centre which produced some 8,580,000 doses of veterinary vaccines;



- fully supported the surgical departments in 5 hospitals which admitted over 29,000 surgical patients, more than 45 % of whom were women and children, and gave about 142,000 outpatient consultations;
- made ad hoc distributions of surgical medicines and materials for 10 other hospitals treating more than 23,000 inpatients (of whom the majority were war-wounded) and giving over 45,000 outpatient consultations;
- provided home care to over 400 paraplegics in Kabul;



- produced 4,565 prostheses, 5,519 orthoses, 9,016 pairs of crutches and 855 wheelchairs for amputees and other handicapped people, and fitted 5,587 new patients for prostheses or orthoses;

SOUTH AND CENTRAL ASIA AFGHANISTAN



- improved water quality and sanitary conditions for 100,000 people in Kabul by building or repairing over 50 wells, 10,000 latrines, and 14 refuse containers, and conducting health education sessions on their use;



- provided technical and material support for Afghan Red Crescent dissemination, tracing and first aid activities;
- in a project delegated to the Netherlands Red Cross, supported the Afghan Red Crescent marastoon (home for destitute) project;
- provided food and material support for Afghan Red Crescent relief and food-for-work activities;
- supported 17 Afghan Red Crescent small-scale vocational training projects for orphans and young breadwinners;



- established a programme teaching basic humanitarian principles in Koranic schools, offering 6 sessions on humanitarian principles to 768 participants;
- held 60 sessions on humanitarian law for 1,260 bearers of weapons;
- participated in the "People on War" campaign, conducting a countrywide survey to elicit the views of people affected by war;



- collected information on mine injuries from ICRC-supported medical facilities and shared them with the OCHA*'s Mine Action Centre.

* OCHA: United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Aid

PAKISTAN

change in government

fighting in Kashmir

neutral intermediary

*negotiating ICRC
visits to detainees*

*logistics base
for Afghan operations*

family links

International sanctions against Pakistan were maintained throughout 1999, adding to the political and financial problems faced by the coalition government led by the PML.* In Karachi, tension between the MQM* and the PML again fomented political violence that led to deaths and arrests. In other regions, sectarian violence continued, and economic and social conditions deteriorated. On 12 October, mounting tension between the military and the prime minister culminated in a military takeover of the government.

In May, Pakistan and India intensified the exchange of fire along the line of control in Jammu and Kashmir after several high positions were taken over by militants in the Kargil area. Heavy fighting continued through August, resulting in the deaths of hundreds of combatants and non-combatants and the displacement of tens of thousands of people within Pakistan-administered Kashmir. Most of these people were able to return home by the end of the year. The ICRC monitored the humanitarian situation of those affected by the fighting, distributing material assistance such as winter clothing, toiletries and school materials to displaced families.

Tensions with India were fuelled at the end of the year when an Indian aircraft was hijacked for the purpose of securing the release of Kashmiri militants held in custody by the Indian authorities.

The situation between Pakistan and Iran over developments in Afghanistan remained tense in 1999, but the visit to Iran in December of the new Pakistani leader signalled the new government's willingness to improve relations.

During the Kargil crisis, the ICRC fulfilled its role of neutral intermediary in the repatriation of prisoners of war released by both sides, and in the return of mortal remains. It also reminded the parties of their obligations under international humanitarian law.

The ICRC closely monitored developments in Pakistan throughout the year. It maintained contacts with national and provincial officials in an effort to gain access to people detained in connection with political tension and sectarian violence. After receiving a verbal agreement to begin detention activities in Punjab in March, the ICRC faced a setback in September when the authorities concerned showed a reluctance to accept ICRC standard visiting procedures.

Throughout 1999, the delegation in Pakistan continued to provide extensive logistical support to operations in Afghanistan. Two ICRC aircraft served the main destinations in Afghanistan, delivering emergency medical supplies and enabling NGOs to maintain their programmes by providing them with the only means of transport within Afghanistan.

Together with the Pakistan Red Crescent Society, the delegation continued to enable refugees in Pakistan to maintain links with their family members in Afghanistan by means of Red Cross Messages. It also issued travel documents for Afghan refugees resettling in third countries.

In its continued endeavour to promote respect for humanitarian law among members of the armed forces and other arms bearers, the delegation pursued its programme of presentations on humanitarian law in military and police training institutions. In July, the ICRC was invited to extend its training activities to all three branches of the Pakistan Armed Forces, and it subsequently gave presentations on human-

* PML: Pakistan Muslim League

* MQM: Muttahida Qaummi Movement

SOUTH AND CENTRAL ASIA PAKISTAN

promoting humanitarian law

itarian law and the law of war at sea to naval officers at the Pakistan Navy War College in Lahore, and to officers and cadets at the Navy Engineering College and the Naval Academy in Karachi. It continued to give presentations at the training academies of other branches of the armed forces, and in December it submitted a comprehensive proposal for expanded cooperation, including the integration of humanitarian law into the regular curricula of military training institutions, to the Director General of Military Training of the Pakistan Armed Forces.

In a new programme for dissemination to the police that was approved by the authorities in Punjab province, the ICRC made presentations on humanitarian law to police cadets and conducted workshops on the subject for instructors and staff members at police training schools.

To stimulate the general public's interest in humanitarian issues and principles, the delegation in Pakistan took part in the "People on War" campaign, organizing a mobile exhibition on ICRC activities and principles. The exhibition focused on the Indo-Pakistani wars of 1948, 1965 and 1971.

The Pakistan Red Crescent Society hosted a meeting in Islamabad for the National Societies of South Asia to discuss a strategic framework and core goals for the region. The meeting was facilitated by the Federation, and the ICRC participated throughout.

The Federation and the ICRC worked together with the National Society to assess its capacity as an institution. The ICRC cooperation delegate visited provincial branches to assess their training and management capabilities.

The ICRC also supported National Society first aid activity by donating ambulances and supporting their maintenance.

cooperation within the Movement

PROTECTION	315,380
ASSISTANCE	302,810
PREVENTIVE ACTION	480,070
COOPERATION WITH THE NATIONAL SOCIETY	314,348
OVERHEADS	416,014
GENERAL	549,982
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	Sfr 2,378,604

IN 1999 THE ICRC:



- registered, visited and participated in the repatriation of 11 members of the armed forces captured in fighting between Pakistan and India, and participated in the repatriation of 2 mortal remains;



- with the Pakistan Red Crescent Society, handled 1,107 Red Cross messages exchanged between Afghan refugees in Pakistan and their relatives in Afghanistan;
- issued travel documents for some 1,533 refugees, mainly Afghans, for resettlement in third countries;



- transferred 14,089 tonnes of relief goods and medicines and medical equipment to Afghanistan;
- provided 510 kg of plastic sheeting, blankets and clothing to several hundred families displaced by fighting in Kashmir;



- donated 2 ambulances to the National Society;
- supported 2 Pakistan Red Crescent Society mobile eye clinics treating patients in areas affected by fighting;



- made 11 presentations on humanitarian law to 1,741 armed forces personnel in the training academies of all three branches of the military, including nearly 500 naval officers and cadets;
- sponsored the attendance by one officer of the Pakistan Armed Forces at the Law of War course run by the San Remo International Institute of Humanitarian Law;
- held 2 workshops on humanitarian law for 28 police trainers and instructors, and made a presentation on humanitarian law to 200 police cadets;
- sponsored the attendance of two professors and one student from Pakistani law faculties at a course on humanitarian law and refugee law jointly organized by the ICRC and UNHCR in Bangalore, India;
- sponsored the participation of a senior legal officer of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in an ICRC conference in Geneva on the customary rules of humanitarian law;
- mounted a "People on War" exhibition which was viewed by 1,500 people.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL ASIA SRI LANKA

SRI LANKA

PROTECTION	4,847,095
ASSISTANCE	6,727,255
PREVENTIVE ACTION	928,616
COOPERATION WITH THE NATIONAL SOCIETY	557,801
OVERHEADS	844,151
GENERAL	1,361,350
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	Sfr 15,266,268

elections spawn violence



⊕ ICRC delegation ⊕ ICRC sub-delegation + ICRC office/local office

Sri Lanka continued to be wracked by internal conflict throughout 1999. Fierce fighting between government forces and the LTTE* in northern areas claimed numerous combatant casualties, and a rise in political tension in association with the year's parliamentary and presidential elections resulted in hundreds of violent incidents. Several prominent political figures were assassinated, including a TULF* member of parliament who had been a key figure in government-sponsored peace efforts. In October it was announced that the presidential elections scheduled for 2000 would be held in December 1999, almost a year early. In the last days of the presidential campaign two separate bomb blasts killed some 35 people and injured over 200. One of the wounded was the President, who suffered facial injuries. On 21 December, 1999 the incumbent was re-elected for another six-year term.

Between March and September, the SLA* launched several successive operations, code-named "Rana Gosha" ("Battle Cry"), north of Vavuniya. Meeting with very

* LTTE: Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam

* TULF: Tamil United Liberation Front

* SLA: Sri Lankan Army

fierce offensives

little resistance the army took large areas, including the Madhu Church site where thousands of displaced people were living in open relief centres.

In November, the LTTE launched a major offensive in the Vanni, the area between Vavuniya and the Jaffna peninsula. Code-named "Unceasing Waves III", the offensive enabled the LTTE to regain most of the territory that it had lost to government forces over the previous two years, including the strategically important town of Oddusuddan. In December, another LTTE offensive targeted the Jaffna peninsula. Heavy fighting around the SLA complex at Elephant Pass, the causeway linking the main island to the Jaffna peninsula, continued through the end of the year as government forces resisted LTTE attacks.

The fierce fighting in 1999 resulted in many combatant casualties and large civilian population displacements in the Vanni. In spite of the concentration of inhabitants near areas of combat, civilian casualties were apparently relatively low, with the exception of several serious incidents: in September 22 civilians were killed and 35 injured in the Vanni in an SLA aerial attack which hit a market, and in the eastern district of Ampara at least 50 civilians, including women and children, were killed by the LTTE; later in the year, 37 civilians were killed and around 60 injured by shelling at Madhu Church. The ICRC publicly expressed its concern over the sharp rise in civilian casualties, making constant and immediate representations to both government and LTTE forces regarding their obligation to uphold international humanitarian law and respect civilians.

As fighting around the LTTE-controlled areas of the Vanni region intensified, movements of civilians and humanitarian organizations became more and more hazardous. At the end of June all deliveries of food and medical supplies to the Vanni were blocked, as were civilian movements including medical evacuations. Acting as a neutral intermediary, the ICRC assisted the SLA and LTTE in reaching an agreement on the resumption of movements to and from the Vanni, and in August the ICRC was able to escort civilians, humanitarian workers and government food convoys across the lines. These movements were again blocked by renewed fighting at the end of the year, and the lines remained closed from the beginning of November until early December, when the ICRC facilitated an agreement to allow crossline transport from Vavuniya to the Vanni area.

clashes in the east

In the east of the country, around Batticaloa and Trincomalee, intermittent armed clashes between the SLA and the LTTE claimed lives and disrupted security. Several violent incidents also occurred between Tamil groups in Vavuniya and Batticaloa districts.

visits to detainees

Many arrests were made in connection with the rise in violence, and visits to persons detained in relation to the conflict remained a priority for the ICRC. Written and oral representations were made to the authorities concerned, reminding them of their obligation to guarantee the physical and moral integrity and to respect the dignity of all persons arrested, whether they were undergoing interrogation, awaiting trial or serving sentence.

facilitating the return of released captives

Because of the fierce fighting in which neither side has made a practice of applying humanitarian law with respect to the capture of prisoners, the Sri Lankan conflict has often been characterized as a "no mercy" war. The ICRC has been unwavering in its efforts to convince both the LTTE and government forces to respect their human-

maintaining family contacts

isolation and poverty in the Vanni

supporting prosthetic/orthotic services

itarian obligations towards enemy combatants who are "hors de combat". At the end of 1999, the ICRC was granted access to 11 SLA servicemen in the hands of the LTTE and facilitated their return from the Vanni after their release. Visits were carried out throughout the year to civilians and combatants held in LTTE custody.

The ICRC worked closely with the Sri Lanka Red Cross Society to promote the re-establishment of family links for the thousands of families dispersed by the fighting. Separated families, mostly in the Vanni or from the Jaffna peninsula, were able to communicate with family members through Red Cross messages. Messages regarding emergency or hardship cases were forwarded electronically to speed transmission. The ICRC also facilitated communication by transferring mail between Jaffna and Colombo for the Sri Lanka Postal Service.

The delegation continued to help reunite families separated by the conflict and to trace persons whose relatives were unable to find them. It acted as a neutral intermediary between the government and the LTTE regarding servicemen missing in action, and returned the mortal remains of soldiers and LTTE combatants to the respective parties.

ICRC relief programmes in Sri Lanka focused on people internally displaced by military operations in the Vanni. In addition to suffering the effects of violence, displaced people and residents have been impoverished by the disruption of the economic and social systems of the region wrought by the hostilities. Poor living conditions, an uncertain food supply and restricted access to clean water and medical facilities gave rise to serious health risks for the people living in the Vanni. Those in the eastern districts, the scene of sporadic fighting, were plagued by the same problems, albeit to a lesser extent.

In the Vanni, the ICRC distributed shelter material and household items to thousands of displaced families, and clothes to destitute children. The ICRC made seed distributions and developed plans for small-scale agricultural projects; it also repaired pumps and wells and did test drilling to improve water quality. In a project delegated to the Austrian Red Cross, work continued to improve the water supply in the Batticaloa and Trincomalee areas. The ICRC also served as a neutral intermediary and carried out proxy monitoring for a World Bank-funded irrigation project in the eastern regions.

Fighting also often disrupted medical services or prevented the wounded and sick from having access to functioning services. In cooperation with the Canadian Red Cross, the ICRC supported Sri Lanka Red Cross clinics and mobile health teams which made over 20,000 consultations a month to provide basic health services to populations affected by the conflict. It also supported a National Society mobile dental team in Trincomalee. An ICRC ship made weekly shuttles to maintain the only independent link between Jaffna and the rest of the island, transporting patients in need of medical care, health and education employees and humanitarian workers with their cargo of relief supplies.

The ICRC renovated the Friend in Need Society prosthetic/orthotic workshop in Jaffna, and provided the support needed to maintain artificial limb production there.

The low ratio of civilian-to-combatant casualties in Sri Lanka suggested that some effort was being made by the opposing forces to spare civilians. Nonetheless, the grave violations that did occur and the low number of prisoners taken in battle

SOUTH AND CENTRAL ASIA SRI LANKA

*encouraging compliance
with humanitarian law*

*spreading awareness
of humanitarian principles*

*working toward the ratification
and implementation
of humanitarian law*

joint Red Cross activities

aid for victims of flooding

*management support for the
National Society*

showed that familiarity with and respect for humanitarian law remained limited among combatants from all sides. In order to promote the systematic teaching of humanitarian law within the Sri Lankan armed forces, the ICRC prompted the formation of a permanent working group for the promotion of humanitarian law within the SLA. The group, comprising senior army staff, met for the first time in 1999 and began work on the syllabus for army humanitarian law training.

Sessions on humanitarian law were held for members of the Sri Lankan armed and security forces and of opposition forces, for community leaders, Red Cross volunteers and civilians, including displaced people. The ICRC also provided educational materials on humanitarian law for use in university law schools, and every second month published a newsletter on its activities in Sinhalese, Tamil and English.

The ICRC continued to encourage the Sri Lankan authorities to ratify and implement humanitarian law treaties. It sponsored a symposium for 25 representatives of government ministries to promote the adoption of a Geneva Conventions Act and the formation of a national committee to incorporate humanitarian law into national legislation. To mark the 50th anniversary of the Geneva Conventions, the ICRC sponsored a media campaign to heighten public awareness of humanitarian law.

The ICRC and the Sri Lanka Red Cross worked together to aid populations affected by fighting in the north and north-east. Joint activities included transport of the sick, the war wounded and mortal remains, the staffing and stocking of medical clinics and the provision of assistance to hospitalized civilians. The ICRC also provided financial, material and technical support for National Society tracing, dissemination and first-aid activities. With the backing of the ICRC, the National Society developed and approved a national First-Aid Plan, providing guidelines for all staff and volunteers in order to improve the coherence and effectiveness of their work.

The Sri Lanka Red Cross took the lead role in providing relief in areas of the northern and eastern districts affected by floods in early 1999. The ICRC and the Federation provided the National Society with contributions in kind for its distributions of material assistance to flood victims.

The ICRC and the Federation also worked together to support the National Society's efforts to have the Ministry of Justice put forward a Red Cross Act. They also helped the National Society improve its operational management, developing standardized formats for planning and reporting and putting into place systematic reporting procedures.

IN 1999 THE ICRC:



- visited 3,134 detainees held by the government, 1,997 for the first time, assessing their treatment and the material and psychological conditions of detention and providing them with basic material assistance as required;
- visited 38 detainees held by the LTTE;
- organized and financed 490 family visits to detainees, and provided transport and financial aid for the return home of 197 released detainees;
- supervised the release under its auspices of 11 detainees held by the LTTE;
- collected 2,034 Red Cross messages from detainees and delivered 1,981 family messages to detainees;



- acted as a neutral intermediary between the Sri Lankan government and the LTTE in negotiations to allow cross-line transport of civilians, food and medical materials to areas cut off by fighting, and escorted movements across front lines;
- made representations to the opposing parties regarding violations of humanitarian law;



- collected 2,368 Red Cross messages and distributed 4,270 between family members separated by the conflict;
- opened 2,650 tracing files for persons whose families had no news of them;
- resolved 408 tracing cases by either locating the missing person, or by transmitting news about their fate or whereabouts;
- transported the mortal remains of 197 soldiers and LTTE combatants;
- reunited 84 persons with their families, as a rule escorting them out of conflict zones to the areas where their relatives were living;
- acted as a neutral intermediary between the government and the LTTE regarding information on combatants missing in action;



- distributed 1,579 tonnes of material assistance such as shelter materials and household items to 13,000 families displaced by fighting in the Vanni and Vavuniya regions;
- provided clothing to 2,000 destitute children in the Vanni;



- in a project delegated to the Canadian Red Cross, supported up to 6 Sri Lanka Red Cross Society mobile health teams and 28 primary health centres that provided basic health care in the Vanni region;
- supported 2 additional ICRC/National Society mobile health teams in the East;
- supported a National Society health team in Jaffna providing medical care to returnees from the Vanni, treating an average of 350 patients per month;
- helped the Trincomalee branch's mobile dental team treat an average of 750 persons per month;
- transported over 1,600 patients in need of medical care, as well as medical supplies and medical and humanitarian personnel in an ICRC ship that made weekly shuttles to and from Jaffna;

SOUTH AND CENTRAL ASIA SRI LANKA



- provided financial and technical support, materials and equipment needed to maintain artificial limb production at the Friend in Need prosthetic/orthotic workshop in Jaffna, manufacturing 160 prostheses and orthoses;



- through a programme delegated to the Austrian Red Cross, built or repaired 95 wells and drilled 39 new boreholes to improve the drinking water supply for 3,500 families in Batticaloa and Trincomalee;
- repaired tube wells, did test drilling, and repaired hand pumps in the Vanni;



- with the Federation, backed National Society distributions of material assistance and shelter materials to more than 17,000 people affected by flooding;
- provided financial and material support for Sri Lanka Red Cross efforts to train 22 first-aid trainers and 407 volunteers, and to provide instruction on teaching techniques to another 50 trainers;
- translated and printed publications for use in National Society first-aid and dissemination activities;
- provided the Sri Lanka Red Cross with training equipment, vehicles and computers;



- showed 27 military trainers how to teach humanitarian law;
- held a symposium for representatives of government ministries in order to promote the implementation of humanitarian law on a national level;
- in the period leading up to the 50th anniversary of the Geneva Conventions, conducted a media campaign to increase public awareness of humanitarian law;
- conducted 192 sessions on humanitarian law for 11,191 people such as government officials, military and security personnel, members of opposition groups and civilians, including internally displaced people.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL ASIA TAJIKISTAN

TAJIKISTAN



⊕ ICRC delegation + ICRC presence

the peace process

destabilizing factors

A major breakthrough in the implementation of the 1997 peace agreement was made in 1999. Armed clashes between government and opposition forces ceased, the integration of UTO* fighters into the Tajik armed forces was declared complete and the UTO disbanded its armed wings. In August, a Supreme Court decision ended the ban on opposition political parties, and UTO members subsequently began filling government and administrative posts. Many UTO members still in detention benefited from an amnesty. In September, the government held a referendum on proposed constitutional changes, and in the November elections the incumbent president was re-elected for a seven-year term.

Although these developments improved the country's overall stability, Tajikistan continued to be plagued by problems, making the peace a fragile one. Certain armed groups remained outside the peace agreement, and particularly in the Karategin Valley disarmament was not complete, leaving the government with tenuous control over the area. In the upper Garm valley, the presence of Uzbek refugees and of combatants who were active in areas across the borders with Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan

* UTO: United Tajik Opposition

SOUTH AND CENTRAL ASIA TAJIKISTAN

assistance for vulnerable groups

relief logistics

medical activities reduced

prosthetic/orthotic centre opens

family news transmitted

still no visits to detainees

Ottawa treaty ratified

further eroded the area's stability. Fighting broke out in southern Kyrgyzstan between the Kyrgyz army and armed groups with links in Tajikistan's Karategin valley; Uzbek air strikes against those groups hit Tajik territory and led to tension between Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.

The economy in Tajikistan remained weak, with recovery hampered by poor infrastructure, a lack of resources, rampant crime and corruption, the harsh climate and the difficult topography. These problems left large groups of people in war-affected areas unable to recover their self-sufficiency. The ICRC provided technical and financial support for assistance programmes run by branches of the Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan in the Karategin valley. It also distributed food and material assistance to the victims of landslides and of a typhoid epidemic in Garm, and to Red Crescent branch projects for vulnerable groups.

Access from Dushanbe to the most needy areas in the Karategin valley was sporadically blocked by the weather and isolated incidents of violence, forcing long detours through Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan and thereby slowing humanitarian operations. The ICRC established a stock of relief supplies so that it could react quickly in case of fresh needs in southern Kyrgyzstan, and maintained emergency stocks in Khorog and Garm. The delegation in Dushanbe also provided logistical support for ICRC relief activities in Afghanistan and for the work of the regional delegation in Tashkent for people in southern Kyrgyzstan who were affected by the fighting there.

The ICRC programme to support treatment of the war-wounded was reduced as the hostilities diminished in intensity, but it continued to provide surgical supplies to hospitals for treatment of the wounded still receiving care. The delegation also reduced its emergency medical stocks. It maintained distributions of medical materials to facilities providing basic medical care in the Karategin valley, and explored possibilities for the handover of the programme to another organization.

The ICRC completed rehabilitation work on the Dushanbe prosthetic/orthotic centre, and staff from the Ministry of Social Protection were trained by a team including two Afghan prosthetic/orthotic technicians from the ICRC delegation in Kabul. The Tajik Red Crescent registered amputees throughout the country, and prosthesis production began in March. The project was delegated to the Canadian Red Cross Society and the centre was soon producing artificial limbs at a steady rate.

The Red Cross message system, handled by the Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan, continued to enable civilians to communicate with family members abroad, particularly in Afghanistan.

Although the ICRC made regular representations to the authorities in a bid to gain access to persons deprived of their freedom in connection with the conflict, it was unable to obtain permission to visit detainees in accordance with its standard procedures.

Tajikistan's review of its legislation afforded a favourable climate for the ratification and implementation of humanitarian law. Thanks to its contacts with ministries concerned and a seminar organized for their representatives, the ICRC was instrumental in bringing about the establishment of a national committee for the implementation of international humanitarian law. The committee met for the first time in August 1999. In October, Tajikistan ratified the Ottawa treaty banning landmines and the Tajik president signed two decrees concerning Tajikistan's accession to the 1976

SOUTH AND CENTRAL ASIA TAJIKISTAN

*humanitarian law instruction
for the armed and security forces*

*promoting humanitarian law
in academic circles*

*teaching humanitarian values
in secondary schools*

working within the Movement

ENMOD* Convention and to various protocols to the 1980 Convention on Conventional Weapons.

In their ongoing efforts to encourage the armed forces to incorporate instruction on humanitarian law into military and police training courses, ICRC dissemination delegates focused on teaching humanitarian law to senior officers, training unit instructors to pass on their knowledge to the troops, and producing publications on the law of armed conflict for training purposes. They ran "train-the-trainers" courses for the Russian Border Troops and for various units of the Tajik armed forces, set up humanitarian law libraries within military units, and provided training and materials for newly-introduced instruction on humanitarian law in police training facilities.

In order to encourage the teaching of and research in humanitarian law at university level, the ICRC organized a seminar on the instruction of humanitarian law for professors of penal law. It sponsored the participation of university faculty and law students in humanitarian law symposia, courses and competitions held outside Tajikistan. The delegation helped develop university-level materials for use in teaching humanitarian law.

The campaign to introduce humanitarian principles in secondary school curricula in Tajikistan progressed as planned in 1999. Copies of the school manual, "Look at the World with Wise Eyes", were distributed to eighth-grade pupils, teacher's manuals were printed and distributed, school inspectors were taught to train and supervise teachers in the use of the manual, and the training of teachers was begun.

The Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan played a key role in ICRC tracing and prosthetic/orthotic activities. With a view to developing the National Society's capacity to work autonomously, the ICRC provided dissemination training for its staff and volunteers both in the branches and at national headquarters. Food and non-food relief items were given to Red Crescent branches in the areas hardest hit by the conflict for their relief activities for the most vulnerable.

* ENMOD: Convention on the Military or any Other Hostile Use of Environmental Modification Techniques

IN 1999 THE ICRC:



- with the Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan, handled 488 Red Cross messages exchanged between members of separated families;



- distributed over 2,500 food parcels, 31 tonnes of food, and 13 tonnes of blankets, plastic sheeting, and used clothes to institutions aiding vulnerable groups, and an additional 3,863 food parcels, 22 tonnes of food, and 1 tonne of material assistance through National Society programmes assisting vulnerable families in areas affected by conflict;
- distributed food assistance and hygiene and household items to 3,500 victims of landslides, and material assistance to victims of a typhoid epidemic;



- made ad hoc distributions of medicines and medical materials to hospitals for the treatment of some 120 war-wounded;
- made regular distributions of basic medicines and medical materials to 6 health facilities (total capacity of 240 beds) providing medical care to civilians in the Karategin/Tavildara valleys;



- completed repair work at the prosthetic/orthotic centre in Dushanbe and opened an artificial limb workshop there;
- fitted 188 newly-registered amputees for prostheses, and manufactured 200 prostheses and 247 pairs of crutches;
- continued a training programme in polypropylene production techniques for 10 prosthetic technicians and bench workers;



- financed and organized 9 seminars for National Society representatives to train them how to locate and refer patients to the newly-opened prosthetic/orthotic workshop;
- financed and helped organize 3 Red Crescent branch soup kitchens and a bakery that fed a total of 290 vulnerable persons in the Karategin valley, and developed a honey-production project to generate income for them;

SOUTH AND CENTRAL ASIA TAJIKISTAN



- developed a manual on the inclusion of humanitarian law in national criminal legislation;
- made presentations on humanitarian law to more than 900 members of the armed and security forces;
- produced 46,500 pamphlets on behaviour in combat in Tajik and Russian;
- trained over 120 military trainers in instruction of the law of armed conflict;
- printed 122,000 manuals and 6,000 teacher's guides for use in secondary school instruction on humanitarian principles, distributing 96,200 of the manuals and 5,500 of the teacher's guides;
- taught 94 teacher trainers to train and supervise teachers in the use of the secondary school teaching manuals;
- ran a seminar on humanitarian law for 23 law instructors from Tajik law faculties;
- sent a team of two law students and one instructor to the De Martens moot court competition in Minsk;
- sent two university faculty members and one Ministry of Security senior instructor to ICRC courses on humanitarian law held in Moscow;
- sent the head of the Department of Journalism of the Russian-Tajik Slavonic University to an ICRC humanitarian law course held in Ashgabad;
- sent a law student to a humanitarian law course in Warsaw organized by the Polish Red Cross;
- sent the head of the Tajik Higher Military College to the ICRC course on humanitarian law at San Remo;
- printed 2,000 copies in Tajik of a brochure on the protection afforded to journalists by humanitarian law.

NEW DELHI

Regional delegation

(Bangladesh, Bhutan, India,
Maldives and Nepal)

*growing tensions
in Indo-Pakistani relations*

*detention follow-up
in Jammu and Kashmir*

violence in the north-east

political unrest in Bangladesh

*slow progress toward peace
in the Chittagong Hill Tracts*

In 1999, tensions between India and Pakistan continued to put a strain on the situation along the line of control dividing Kashmir. From May to July, military operations intensified around the Kargil sector, causing hundreds of civilian and military casualties, and forcing the displacement of several thousand civilians. The ICRC submitted a memorandum to both the Indian and the Pakistani authorities, reminding them of their obligation to respect the Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols in the conduct of operations. It also acted as a neutral intermediary, registering, visiting and participating in the repatriation of members of the armed forces captured in fighting between India and Pakistan, and returning mortal remains across lines.

Relations between India and Pakistan deteriorated further in December, after an Indian Airline aircraft was hijacked for the purpose of securing the release of Kashmiri militants held by the Indian authorities; the ensuing controversy over whether Pakistan was in any way responsible for the incident only served to increase tensions between the two countries.

In the second half of the year skirmishes between militant groups and the armed forces in Jammu and Kashmir increased, and the year ended with several militant attacks on key points, including the Legislative Assembly building in Srinagar. The ICRC, for its part, continued to visit detainees held in connection with the situation prevailing in Jammu and Kashmir. Following an October 1998 round-table discussion on detention activities with the Indian authorities, the ICRC was able in 1999 to cross-check transfers with police station registers, to follow up released detainees by visiting their homes or sending letters to their families, and to keep track of detainees previously visited but no longer being held in the same place of detention. Later in the year the ICRC encountered difficulties running its detention activities in Jammu and Kashmir. This prompted the organization to request another round-table discussion with the authorities. The request was still pending at the end of the year.

Despite negotiations between the different parties involved, sporadic acts of violence continued to occur in India's north-eastern states. The ICRC followed developments in the area, and in January its Delegate General met with representatives of several ministries to discuss the possibilities for expanding humanitarian activities in the north-east. Throughout the year, the ICRC worked to strengthen cooperation with Red Cross branches in Assam and Nagaland, financing the establishment of a first-aid programme at the state Red Cross branch of Assam. It also made presentations on humanitarian law to police officers in Nagaland and Mizoram, and to military personnel in Assam.

Large portions of Bangladesh were still recovering from the devastation of the 1998 floods, and the subsequent loss of property and jobs in the countryside resulted in increased migration to urban centres. The opposition alliance led by the Bangladesh National Party intensified its campaign against the Awami League government, and general strikes and violent clashes between opposition activists and the police contributed to an atmosphere of instability.

In the Chittagong Hill Tracts, a peace accord signed in 1997 officially ended two decades of violence between the Bangladesh army and the tribal insurgency movement there. The resettlement of internally displaced people and of the tens of thou-

*permanent ICRC presence
in Bangladesh*

growing insurgency in Nepal

detainees in Bhutan

*working to promote
humanitarian law*

*marking the 50th anniversary
of the Geneva Conventions*

*maintaining contacts
with the media*

sands of refugees who returned from Tripura resulted in numerous land disputes, and tensions between different groups regularly generated violence and associated arrests. In May, a regional council was formed with the former rebel leader as its chairman.

In March 1999, the ICRC established a permanent presence in Bangladesh in order to keep a close eye on cooperation projects with the National Society and to monitor needs for humanitarian assistance in the Chittagong Hill Tracts. It opened an office in Dhaka in June with the permission of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The ICRC and the Bangladesh Red Crescent society continued their dissemination campaign in the Chittagong Hill Tracts and conducted tracing workshops for Bangladesh Red Crescent units. The ICRC's regional legal advisors made contact with Ministry of Foreign Affairs officials regarding the ratification and implementation of humanitarian law treaties.

In May 1999, the NCP* won an absolute majority in parliamentary elections, improving the prospects for political stability after a long succession of short-lived coalition governments. The economic situation remained grim, however, and Nepal's social indicators were still amongst the lowest in South Asia. The Maoist insurgency, or "peoples' war" ("jana yudha"), declared in 1996 continued to spread from its stronghold in mid-western Nepal to other districts, including areas near Kathmandu. In June 1999, government figures put the total death toll at 890. The ICRC obtained permission to visit detainees held in connection with the insurgency late in 1998, and carried out visits to places of detention in western and central Nepal throughout 1999. In October it obtained permission to visit police posts as well, and subsequently began visits in accordance with its standard procedures.

In Bhutan, the ICRC continued twice-yearly visits to detainees, making its first visit to detainees in Lodrai and return visits to Thimpu and Chamgang. In cooperation with the Nepalese Red Cross, it enabled seven Bhutanese women who were refugees in Nepal to make a 36-hour visit to their husbands detained in Bhutan. Most of the couples had been separated for years.

In all of the region's countries, the ICRC works to promote the principles of humanitarian law. In 1999, India acceded to Protocol IV (concerning the use of blinding laser weapons) and amended Protocol II (concerning the use of mines) to the 1980 UN Convention on Conventional Weapons.

The ICRC provided the National Societies of the region with guidelines, organizational back-up, and resource materials as they planned activities to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Geneva Conventions. As part of its own anniversary activities it launched a monthly newsletter, "ICRC Information", which was distributed extensively in India, Nepal and Bangladesh. In India, the ICRC encouraged the government to issue a postage stamp on the theme "Even wars have limits", and organized various media events.

The regional delegation's Media Liaison Office maintained contacts to encourage media coverage of humanitarian issues and Red Cross activities, and made presentations on landmines and other topics of humanitarian concern in courses, symposia and seminars. In Dhaka, it presented a module on communication and the media to Red Crescent branches.

* NCP: Nepali Congress Party

SOUTH AND CENTRAL ASIA NEW DELHI

*dissemination to police and
armed forces*

*promoting the study
of humanitarian law*

*cooperating
with National Societies*

The ICRC continued to make presentations on humanitarian law to members of the armed forces and to the police in India and Bangladesh, and to the armed forces in Nepal. In November, a presentation on ICRC activities focusing on dissemination to the armed forces was given to military officers and political officials in Bhutan.

The regional delegation maintained contacts with law societies, universities and academic associations, cooperating with them to organize meetings, symposia and courses related to the teaching of humanitarian law in relevant university programmes. It worked with UNHCR, the National Commission on Human Rights and the Indian Society of International Law to offer a one-year diploma course on human rights and international humanitarian and refugee law. The first of its kind in South Asia, the course was launched in September.

The ICRC provided material and technical support for the tracing and dissemination activities of the region's National Societies. In India, it cooperated with the Federation to organize disaster-preparedness workshops, organized dissemination and tracing seminars, and provided funding and relief materials to support Red Cross branch activities for those affected by the fighting in Jammu and Kashmir.

IN 1999 THE ICRC:



- visited 1,407 detainees in 21 places of detention in Jammu and Kashmir and forwarded 703 Red Cross messages between them and their families;
- visited 167 detainees in 3 places of detention in Bhutan and collected 258 Red Cross messages from them to be distributed to their families in refugee camps in Nepal, and organized family visits to the detainees;
- registered and visited 441 detainees in 41 places of detention in western and central Nepal;



- issued 773 travel documents, mostly for Afghan nationals;



- financed and helped organize tracing workshops and courses for the National Societies of Bangladesh and India, and produced and distributed tracing leaflets and promotional posters for their use;
- with the Indian Red Cross and the Federation, offered five state-level disaster-preparedness workshops;
- in India, provided two ambulances, relief goods and financial support to the Indian Red Cross for its activities for persons affected by fighting along the line of control;
- supported the first of three planned first-aid training workshops conducted by the Assam Red Cross branch;
- with the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society, produced 10,000 leaflets, 2,000 posters, 40,000 bags for relief items and other materials to be used in a dissemination campaign in the Chittagong Hill Tracts;
- with the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society, organized a seminar on international humanitarian law and human rights for 51 future police officers;



- organized 17 presentations on humanitarian law for 2,122 armed forces members in India, Bangladesh and Nepal, and 10 presentations for 666 police officers in India;
- in cooperation with the National Societies, held workshops in India, Bangladesh and Nepal to discuss dissemination strategies among branch representatives;
- in cooperation with UNHCR and the National Law School of India at the University of Bangalore, held a 10-day teaching session on humanitarian and refugee law for 27 post-graduate students and lecturers from throughout South Asia;
- with the Indian Society of International Law organized a seminar on humanitarian law for 80 diplomats, government officials and other civic leaders, and a symposium on humanitarian law instruction for 90 law tutors;
- with UNHCR, organized a teacher-training programme on humanitarian and refugee law in Meerut, India, which was attended by about 25 teachers of defence studies from throughout northern India;
- with the Association of Indian Universities, held a meeting of experts in defence studies from all over India to draft a humanitarian law syllabus for Masters-level programmes in defence and strategic studies;
- with the "Times of India", sponsored a contest for journalists on "Human Dignity and War";
- with UNHCR and the Indian Centre for Humanitarian Law and Research, organized a teacher training programme in Hyderabad for 24 law instructors from southern India.

TASHKENT

Regional Delegation

(Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan,
Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan)

clashes with fundamentalists

*helping displaced
and returning families*

*first visit to persons deprived
of their freedom*

*encouraging the ratification
and implementation
of humanitarian law treaties*

*developing humanitarian law
studies in academic circles*

The Central Asian States continued to suffer economic decline in 1999, with all four countries covered by the Tashkent delegation experiencing a decrease in foreign investment and a fall in economic indicators. Growing discontent with multilateral regional organizations became evident when Uzbekistan withdrew from the CIS* Security Treaty and Turkmenistan pulled out of the CIS visa-free travel agreement.

A bombing incident in Tashkent in February, attributed to Islamic groups, heightened concern over the growth of fundamentalism in Central Asia. Leaders of all four of the countries covered by the regional delegation subsequently agreed to take strong measures against fundamentalist activities. Fighting broke out in August between the Kyrgyz army and a group of combatants operating along the border between southern Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan. Uzbek air strikes against these armed groups hit Tajik territory, resulting in a deterioration in the relations between Uzbekistan and Tajikistan.³

The fighting in southern Kyrgyzstan forced the displacement of approximately 5,000 people in the Batken area. The ICRC and the Kyrgyz Red Crescent Society cooperated to distribute food and hygiene articles to displaced and returning families.

Following reports of arrests related to clashes in southern Kyrgyzstan, the regional delegation approached the Kyrgyz authorities for permission to visit detainees held in connection with the fighting. On 22 December the delegation was able to visit a prison under the responsibility of the Ministry of National Security. The visit was carried out in accordance with ICRC standard procedures and was the first ICRC visit to a place of detention in the countries covered by the regional delegation.

Throughout 1999, the Tashkent regional delegation continued to promote the incorporation of humanitarian law into national legislation and to help develop the teaching of humanitarian principles and law through national institutions. It handed over reports on the status of international law in national legislation to the governments of Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan. In Kyrgyzstan, the national committee on the implementation of humanitarian law, made up of representatives of different ministries, met for the first time, and the ICRC organized a training seminar for its members. Kyrgyzstan also ratified the Geneva Conventions and Additional Protocols, to which it had succeeded on its independence. In Uzbekistan, the ICRC cooperated with the Academy of the Ministry of the Interior, the Red Crescent Society and the National Human Rights Centre to organize a national seminar on the implementation of humanitarian law.

ICRC dissemination staff consulted with faculties of law, journalism and international relations on the process of including humanitarian law in their curricula, sponsoring the second meeting of the Central Asian Coordinating Council for the Teaching of International Humanitarian Law and working with Ruhr University to organize a conference on the same subject. The ICRC supported research on humanitarian law, sponsored the participation of students and faculty members in activities related to humanitarian law, and provided financial and technical support for the publication of materials on the subject. The period under review saw the systematic inclusion of humanitarian law in the curricula of universities in all four countries covered by the regional delegation.

* CIS: Commonwealth of Independent States

³ See pp. 174-175.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL ASIA TASHKENT

*teaching humanitarian principles
in secondary schools*

*incorporating the law
of war into military training*

*working with the region's
National Societies*

In an effort to instil humanitarian attitudes at an early age, the ICRC has pursued a strategy of making lessons on humanitarian issues a part of secondary school curricula. The Tashkent regional delegation maintained contacts to explore possibilities for developing school programmes in Kazakhstan, and in Kyrgyzstan a new school programme agreement was signed in November by the ICRC, the National Society and the Ministry of Education. In Uzbekistan, where the secondary school programme is relatively well developed, seminars were conducted to train educational specialists to become teacher trainers for over 12,000 grade 11 teachers. A handbook for students and a teacher guide on its use were tested, finalized and published in Uzbek, Russian and Karakalpak and distributed in schools throughout Uzbekistan. Having thereby achieved the objectives set forth in the first agreement, the ICRC, the Red Crescent Society of Uzbekistan and the Ministry of Public Education signed a new agreement in July.

To promote the application of humanitarian law in military operations, the regional delegation continued its efforts to encourage the armed forces in the region to include the law of armed conflict in their training programmes. In 1999, the Ministries of Defence in both Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan established comprehensive law of war training programmes. In Uzbekistan, the Deputy Minister of Defence appointed a working group to develop, in cooperation with an ICRC specialist, a curriculum and training manual on the law of armed conflict.

To promote cooperation and establish a regional approach to cooperation activities, the ICRC financed and organized a two-day workshop with the Federation and the Presidents of all four National Societies. It supported regional training courses on tracing and dissemination for National Society staff and volunteers in countries of the region. Complementing its other activities targeting young people, the delegation financed youth programmes of the Central Asian National Societies. In all four of the region's countries it participated in press conferences marking the 50th anniversary of the Geneva Conventions.

IN 1999 THE ICRC:



- signed several cooperation project agreements with Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan, and cooperation framework agreements with Turkmenistan and Kyrgyzstan;
- with the Kyrgyz Red Crescent, distributed 17 tonnes of family parcels and wheat flour and 2,000 blankets to some 5,000 displaced people and returnees in southern Kyrgyzstan;
- together with the Netherlands Red Cross Society, helped finance a Kyrgyz Red Crescent programme for the rehabilitation of young offenders;
- supported the Uzbek Red Crescent youth volunteer programme;
- sponsored a youth summer camp for orphans/refugee children and Red Crescent youth coordinators in Kyrgyzstan;



- finished printing over 530,000 copies of the student handbook "Man and Society" and distributed over 330,000, along with over 15,900 teacher's guides, to schools throughout Uzbekistan and conducted 22 seminars to show about 1,000 educational specialists how to train teachers in their use;
- in cooperation with the Institute for International Peacekeeping Law (Ruhr University, Bochum), organized a regional conference on the teaching of International Humanitarian Law in Ashgabad, attended by 22 participants from more than 15 universities of the five Central Asian Republics and Azerbaijan;
- sponsored the second meeting of the Central Asian Coordinating Council for the Teaching of International Humanitarian Law in Central Asia;
- sent representatives from Kazakh, Kyrgyz and Uzbek universities to an ICRC seminar in Moscow for Deans/Heads of Chair of Journalism;
- sent faculty members from Central Asian State universities to an ICRC-organized course on humanitarian law in Moscow, and to a course on customary humanitarian law held in Geneva by the ICRC Legal Division;
- arranged for teams from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Turkmenistan to participate in the De Martens moot court competition in Minsk;
- gave financial support to the Turkmenistan Ministry of Foreign Affairs to publish 1,000 copies of the Turkmen translation of the Geneva Conventions;
- financed the printing of 500 training manuals on the law of war for the Kazakh armed forces, and 500 for the Kyrgyz armed forces;
- trained the instructor of the new Kyrgyz National Guard course on the law of war and helped with the production of a training manual;
- organized a training course on the law of armed conflict to high-ranking officers of the Turkmenistan Border Guards;
- organized a photo exhibition, "People on War", to raise media and public awareness of the impact of war; the exhibition was visited by over 14,000 people in Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan.

CAMBODIA



The formation of a coalition between the Cambodian People's Party and FUNCINPEC* in late 1998 and the surrender of the last resisting Khmer Rouge fighters paved the way for significant progress toward stability in Cambodia in 1999. There were no armed clashes during the year. In May Cambodia became the 10th member of ASEAN, confirming international recognition of its new government's legitimacy. Discussions about trials of former Khmer Rouge leaders continued throughout the year, with the government and the United Nations disagreeing over the composition of the court, and heated international and internal debate over who should be tried.

One of the most heavily mined countries in the world, in 1999 Cambodia became the second ASEAN country to ratify the Ottawa treaty banning landmines.

Early in the year the last 50,000 Khmer refugees were repatriated from Thailand by UNHCR, thus bringing to a close the repatriation operation for those Khmer who had fled to Thailand in 1997. Largely regarded as a success, the operation nonetheless generated land disputes, and some returnees were settled on land that had not been cleared of mines.

* FUNCINPEC: United National Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful and Cooperative Cambodia

Ottawa treaty ratified

repatriation completed

*copied with the aftermath
of decades of conflict*

programmes scaled down

*access to new areas
in the north-west*

treatment for amputees

*searches for family members
renewed*

*working together
within the Movement*

*broadening awareness
of humanitarian principles*

In spite of these important steps towards political stability, Cambodia continued to be plagued by problems accumulated over decades of conflict. The economy was weak, with much of the population living in poverty. A massive disarmament programme was undertaken during the year, but its success was uncertain and arms remained readily available. There was a high crime rate, and corruption continued to undermine attempts to develop the public and private sectors.

Most of these problems, however, are not part of the ICRC's remit, and with the cessation of hostilities, its programmes were scaled down. While delegates continued to make regular visits to detainees coming under the ICRC's mandate, the number of detainees dwindled. The need to assist surgical facilities and maintain emergency medical stocks for treatment of the war-wounded ended with the fighting. As programmes were cut back, the number of expatriate and local staff was reduced.

The surrender of the Khmer Rouge opened areas in the north-west that had previously been under their control. The ICRC's access to these areas improved in 1999, and its teams overcame poor infrastructure, bad weather conditions and mine-related security constraints to visit them, going as far as Anlong Veng, and to assess needs for tracing and prosthetic/orthotic services.

Mine injuries continued to occur, particularly in the north, and the need persisted for prosthetic/orthotic services for the country's tens of thousands of amputees. The ICRC's prosthetic/orthotic centres in Phnom Penh and Battambang manufactured and fit prostheses and orthoses for amputees and polio patients, and provided services to many amputees from the north who were finally able to seek treatment. Field trips were organized from the Battambang centre to make on-the-spot prosthetic repairs and to distribute crutches and wheelchairs to amputees or polio patients. Amputees were transported from remote areas to Battambang for their first fitting. The ICRC component factory in Phnom Penh continued to produce components not only for these facilities, but also for those of other organizations in Cambodia and for other rehabilitation centres in the region.

The opening of the north-west generated new possibilities for finding persons whose relatives had been searching for them for years. People in these areas were given the chance, after years of isolation, to write Red Cross messages to relatives, and tracing cases were re-opened as people renewed the search for their next-of-kin.

The delegation provided support for Cambodian Red Cross Society tracing and dissemination activities, helped organize workshops, and assisted with the preparation of media materials and the planning of events and activities. To mark the 50th anniversary of the Geneva Conventions, the ICRC and the National Society jointly sponsored an event attended by over 100 government representatives and other leaders. The ICRC and the Federation worked together with the National Society to draft legislation on the National Society and the red cross emblem law.

The delegation gave lectures and provided educational material on humanitarian law at the Faculty of Law in Phnom Penh. The National Society and the ICRC gave joint talks throughout the country to government officials, students, police officers, teachers, and Red Cross youth advisers, and the ICRC published materials for their use.

SOUTH-EAST ASIA AND THE FAR EAST CAMBODIA

*military training
in humanitarian law*

mine awareness

In cooperation with the RCAF,* the ICRC made presentations on humanitarian law to officers and army troops. It developed educational material for their use, and set up a humanitarian law documentation centre within the Armed Forces Training Directorate. For the first time, military instructors joined Red Cross dissemination officers in making presentations on humanitarian law to the military police.

While mine clearance significantly reduced the threat to civilians in some areas, Cambodia remained one of the most heavily mined countries in the world. Throughout the year the ICRC maintained contacts and supported activities to spread awareness of what ratification of the Ottawa treaty implied for the government, national legislation, and the general public. In order to raise public awareness of the issue, the ICRC and the National Society organized a Red Cross Marathon Against Mines in which a former deminer who was injured and became an amputee ran 700 km, the length of Cambodia, through some of its most mine-infested areas.

* RCAF: Royal Cambodian Armed Forces

IN 1999 THE ICRC:



- visited 42 detainees in 16 places of detention, distributing articles such as blankets, hygiene materials, mosquito nets, clothing, and study and leisure materials as required;
- conducted a scabies-treatment programme in three prisons;
- collected 3,834 family messages from detainees, and distributed 3,522 messages to detainees from their relatives;



- in cooperation with the Cambodian Red Cross Society, resolved 29 tracing cases either by locating the person sought or by transmitting information on his or her fate or whereabouts to the family;
- opened 73 new tracing cases for persons seeking news from long-lost family members;
- collected 4,419 Red Cross messages from civilians, for distribution both within Cambodia and abroad, distributing 5,290;



- fitted 991 new patients with prostheses or orthoses;
- manufactured 1,553 prostheses, 362 orthoses, and 4,710 pairs of crutches;
- manufactured prosthetic/orthotic components including 1,518 knee joints, 9,115 alignment systems, and 1,752 orthotic sidebars;



- gave material and technical support to the National Society for the organization and implementation of its dissemination programmes and activities;
- in cooperation with the Cambodian Red Cross and the Federation, participated in the revision of the Cambodian Red Cross statutes and the drafting of legislation on the National Society and the red cross emblem;
- together with the Cambodian Red Cross and the Federation, organized a workshop on fundraising and dissemination for 23 National Society branch directors;
- in cooperation with the Cambodian Red Cross, presented 19 sessions on humanitarian law which were attended by 1,004 persons, including members of the military, law students, university faculty, government officials and police officers;
- with the RCAF, conducted presentations and workshops on humanitarian law for over 5,550 members of the armed forces;
- developed and produced more training materials on humanitarian law for use in military training institutions;
- in cooperation with UNHCHR and the RCAF, organized a seminar on human rights and humanitarian law for 51 army commanders;



- developed plans and materials for a campaign to promote the Ottawa treaty in 2000, including the release of the Khmer version of the ICRC video, "The Ottawa treaty: towards a world free of anti-personnel mines", produced in 1999.

MYANMAR



⊕ ICRC delegation + ICRC office

*the ICRC expands its presence
in Myanmar*

Although government negotiation with several armed ethnic groups has, over the past few years, resulted in an overall reduction in armed activity in Myanmar's border areas, conflict has continued in parts of the country and combined with political tensions and a flood- and drought-prone climate to weaken the economy. As a result, public medical and social services in remote areas found it difficult to meet the needs of the population. In October 1998, after a three-year absence, the ICRC re-established its presence in Myanmar by opening an office in Yangon. Early in 1999 it carried out health surveys in Shan state and began to implement a health promotion programme with the relevant authorities. In mid-1999 the ICRC obtained permission to extend its presence to other border states. It made surveys in Mon and Kayin states and opened offices there. The ICRC office in Yangon became an independent delegation in August.

In May, having obtained an oral agreement from the State Peace and Development Council giving it access to all places of detention in the country, the ICRC began visits to detainees. Visits were conducted in accordance with ICRC standard procedures, and after each visit the delegates' findings and related recommen-

SOUTH-EAST ASIA AND THE FAR EAST MYANMAR

prison visits begin

*maintaining family links
for detainees*

health promotion in Shan state

*support for prosthetic/orthotic
centres*

dations were presented to the authorities concerned. Detainees received recreational materials, and were given the possibility to write Red Cross messages to their families. From May to December, ICRC detention teams conducted 25 visits to places of detention in Myanmar, meeting thousands of detainees and registering the security detainees among them for further follow-up.

To facilitate the exchange of messages between detainees and their families, the ICRC, in cooperation with the Myanmar Red Cross Society, began building a Red Cross message network throughout the country. It also financed the transport of needy family members making visits to security detainees being held far from home.

Five villages in the Mong Pying township of eastern Shan state were targeted for health promotion activities. In April the ICRC made a needs assessment and conducted a participatory rural appraisal training course for locally-hired staff. It subsequently promoted the establishment of Village Health Committees, conducted health education sessions, made surveys of the drinking water supplies and provided material for their improvement, and carried out basic maintenance and repair work on medical facilities. It began a training programme for traditional birth attendants, and in cooperation with the Myanmar Red Cross it started community-based first-aid training.

To follow up the prosthetic/orthotic activities it had conducted in Myanmar from 1986 to 1995, the ICRC provided support to civilian prosthetic/orthotic workshops in Yangon and Mandalay, financing the cost of food, hygiene material and transfers for patients, providing polypropylene sheets and equipment and conducting technical teaching sessions for staff members. Two military prosthetic/orthotic centres were also provided with polypropylene sheets.

IN 1999 THE ICRC:

- conducted visits to more than 26,000 detainees in 18 places of detention, registering 1,245 security detainees and revisiting over 300 of them;
- financed transport for 155 persons making family visits to detainees;
- collected 199 Red Cross messages from detainees and delivered 63 replies from their families;

- conducted a survey of health service needs in Shan state and launched a pilot project for health promotion in five villages of the Mong Pying township in eastern Shan state;

- provided financial, technical and material support for two civilian prosthetic/orthotic workshops and material support for two military prosthetic/orthotic workshops.



BANGKOK

Regional delegation

(People's Republic of China,
Japan, Laos,
Democratic People's Republic of Korea,
Republic of Korea,
Macao, Mongolia, Taiwan,
Thailand, Viet Nam)

monitoring civilian populations

re-establishing family links

*coming to the aid of amputees
and the war-wounded*

*spreading knowledge of
humanitarian law and principles*

During the year under review, the regional delegation's focus remained the promotion of ratification and implementation of humanitarian law treaties and the integration of the law of armed conflict into national military training programmes. The main thrust of cooperation projects with National Societies in the region was the development of their dissemination and tracing activities.

Discord on the Korean Peninsula, unresolved since the 1953 Armistice, continued throughout 1999 as the two parties failed to reach an agreement at peace talks in Geneva. The unabated tension again frustrated efforts to resolve the problems of the hundreds of thousands of Koreans who have remained separated from their family members, often without even news of their fate, since the fighting ended. The ICRC pursued contacts with the authorities and National Societies concerned with a view to promoting a humanitarian approach to the issue of separated Korean families.

Macao returned to Chinese sovereignty on 20 December, 1999.

By late March 1999, the Khmer who had fled to Thailand in the aftermath of the 1997 violence had been repatriated,⁴ and the ICRC shut down its operation on the Thai-Cambodian border. The regional delegation continued to monitor the situation of the approximately 100,000 refugees from Myanmar living in camps along the Thai-Myanmar border, maintaining contacts with the leaders of refugee communities, the Thai authorities and humanitarian organizations operating in the area.

The Bangkok regional delegation continued to work with the tracing services of the region's National Societies and local Red Cross organizations, following up on individual tracing cases where ICRC action was requested. As the office responsible for centralizing all tracing files and related information concerning Cambodia, the Bangkok regional delegation cooperated with the National Societies concerned to locate persons whose families were searching for them. Until the Khmer refugees who were living on the Thai-Cambodian border were repatriated, a field officer stationed on the border oversaw a regular Red Cross message service between refugees in Thailand and their families in Cambodia. Between October 1997, when the service was started, and March 1999, over 2,200 messages were exchanged.

In a programme funded by its Special Fund for the Disabled, the ICRC pursued its cooperation with the government of Viet Nam to improve the quality of prostheses and prosthetic components produced in the Ho Chi Minh prosthetic/orthotic centre, to introduce ICRC prosthetic technology to provincial centres, and to finance the artificial limbs of destitute amputees not eligible for government support. Until the Khmer refugees returned to Cambodia, the ICRC gave first aid and surgical materials to Thai health facilities providing free health care for refugees, including mine victims.

The ICRC promoted plans for the formation of a permanent working group for coordinating instruction of the law of war within the armed forces of Thailand and Mongolia. In China and Thailand it launched "train the trainers" activities, organizing the first-ever workshop on the law of war for instructors from military academies around China, and the first instructor's course on the same subject for senior officers of the Royal Thai Armed Forces. Instructional material was developed and translated in association with these courses and for use by trainers in established training activities within the Mongolian armed forces.

⁴ See p. 186.

*military humanitarian law
training at the regional level*

*teaching future leaders
about humanitarian law*

cooperation within the Movement

50th anniversary events

In a new region-wide approach to military humanitarian law training in the law of war, the regional delegation participated in the planning and presentation of the ASEAN Regional Forum seminar on the law of armed conflict. High-level representatives of the governments and armed forces of the region's countries participated in the seminar, which was sponsored by the Australian government. The delegation also launched a newsletter which focused on current humanitarian law training activities undertaken by the armed forces of the region. In order to obtain maximum benefit from contacts made during the San Remo course in international humanitarian law, the regional delegation hosted the first centralized briefing for all officers from East and South-east Asia whose attendance the ICRC had sponsored at the course.

The ICRC also maintained activities to broaden awareness of humanitarian law and the principles and activities of the Red Cross Movement in different sectors of society. In October, the regional delegate made a presentation on humanitarian law and Red Cross principles and activities to a group of future diplomats from the Republic of Korea. In Taiwan, the ICRC's role was presented to students of the Foreign Service Institute in Taipei. For the first time since the early 1990s, the ICRC was able to resume presentations on humanitarian law to law students in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

The three-year project for training disseminators within the Red Cross Society of China, "Dissemination China 2001", progressed as planned, with the first regional seminar taking place in Hainan province in March. By the end of the year, about two-thirds of the provincial Chinese Red Cross branches had, on their own initiative, organized training for their staff and members and promotion events for the public.

With the return of Macao to Chinese sovereignty, the Macao Red Cross Society became a branch of the Red Cross Society of China, with a special autonomous status similar to that of the Hong Kong Red Cross Society. Both the Hong Kong and Macao Red Cross Societies participated in the "Dissemination China 2001" programme.

The regional delegation participated in a course on humanitarian law organized by the Japanese Red Cross in order to prepare participants from Japan and neighbouring countries for a mission abroad with one of the Movement's international components or with the Japanese Red Cross.

The regional delegation participated in the activities of National Societies around the region to mark the 50th anniversary of the Geneva Conventions. In Thailand, the National Society organized a symposium on humanitarian law which was attended by high-level members of the government and armed forces and by the Crown Princess, who is also the Thai Red Cross Executive Vice-President. The Japanese Red Cross invited representatives of the government, the armed forces and the Red Cross to a round-table discussion which included speakers of international repute. In Mongolia, the National Society, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the ICRC together launched a Mongolian version of "IHL-Answers to your questions" at an event marking the 50th anniversary of the Geneva Conventions. The Vice-President of the ICRC attended the Mongolian Red Cross Society's 60th anniversary celebration.

IN 1999 THE ICRC:



- handled 250 Red Cross messages exchanged between Khmer refugees along the Thai-Cambodian border and their families in Cambodia;
- opened 33 new tracing cases;



- in Viet Nam, in a programme of the Special Fund for the Disabled, gave financial and material support for the prosthetic/orthotic workshop in Ho Chi Minh City, which fitted 806 new patients and manufactured 1,647 new prostheses and 172 canes.



- gave material and technical support to the region's National Red Cross Societies for the organization and implementation of their dissemination, tracing, and first-aid programmes;
- helped the Red Cross Society of China to plan, develop and produce educational materials for the three-year country-wide project "Dissemination China 2001";
- in cooperation with the Federation, funded an international camp for Red Cross youth organized by the Red Cross of Vietnam for 270 participants from Viet Nam and other countries in the region;



- gave talks on the law of armed conflict to 437 members of the armed forces, trained 85 military humanitarian law instructors, and developed training materials for use in military training institutions in various countries in the region;
- sponsored the attendance by armed forces officers from Thailand, China and Mongolia at the international humanitarian law course run by the San Remo International Institute of Humanitarian Law;
- launched a newsletter on military humanitarian law training activities undertaken by armed forces in the region, and distributed it region-wide to military and government contacts;
- provided educational materials for courses on humanitarian law at universities in Thailand and Laos;
- sponsored the translation of written material on humanitarian law, including the translation into Chinese by the Beijing University International Law Institute of selected articles from the "International Review of the Red Cross".

JAKARTA

Regional delegation

(Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia/East Timor, Malaysia, Singapore)

*intercommunal violence spreads
throughout the Moluccas*

*ethnic violence
in West Kalimantan*

separatist conflict in Aceh

*helping the victims
of violence in Aceh*

Separatist and intercommunal violence rocked the Indonesian archipelago's trouble spots of East Timor, the Moluccas, West Kalimantan and Aceh in 1999. In Irian Jaya, separatist rallies and demonstrations were largely peaceful, but related incidents rendered the situation volatile. In spite of the turmoil, Indonesia successfully held its first multiparty parliamentary and presidential elections. Shortly after, the People's Consultative Assembly in Jakarta revoked the decree declaring the integration of East Timor into Indonesia and endorsed a proposal of amnesty for political prisoners.

In January, violence broke out between Christian and Muslim communities in Ambon. Flareups continued throughout the year and spread to all the Moluccas, claiming hundreds of lives, causing widespread destruction and forcing large numbers of people to flee their homes. An ICRC-backed PMI* team monitored conditions in shelters for the displaced, gave medical consultations and distributed food and basic material assistance. This programme was completed in June, but the ICRC was unable to return to the Moluccas and so could not take action to meet the needs brought about by the increasing violence there.

Early in 1999 an upsurge of ethnic violence in West Kalimantan (Borneo) targeted migrants from Madura island. Clashes resulted in numerous deaths, the destruction of property and the displacement of thousands of Madurese. A joint PMI/ICRC team provided medicines and water tanks for use in camps for the displaced, and distributed clothes and basic household and shelter items. In response to the displaced population's deteriorating nutritional status, the Red Cross team distributed food to supplement government rice rations until evaluations showed a marked improvement.

Persistent violence between the Free Aceh Movement and the Indonesian security forces flared in July when an anti-separatist operation was launched. The conflict cost hundreds of civilian lives and forced tens of thousands of people temporarily to flee their homes. Sporadic outbreaks recurred at the end of the year, as demands for an independence referendum became more strident.

The ICRC made contact with the victims of the violence in Aceh and their families; when appropriate, it approached the authorities concerned regarding alleged violations of humanitarian law. It followed up on the cases of persons who were allegedly arrested or had disappeared, and visited persons detained by the Indonesian armed and security forces in connection with the situation. The ICRC strengthened PMI ambulance services, and helped train local Red Cross teams administering first aid and evacuating the wounded. It provided surgical material for the treatment of the wounded, and, together with the PMI, ensured that displaced persons living in shelters had access to drinking water and sanitation facilities. In a joint programme, the PMI and the ICRC provided food parcels and material relief supplies to vulnerable people such as widows, orphans, the handicapped, and victims of sexual abuse. For the first time in Aceh, the ICRC held seminars for armed forces personnel on the subjects of humanitarian and human rights law.

In January, clashes between pro-integration and pro-independence groups in East Timor were sparked by government discussions and declarations about East Timor's possible independence; the violence worsened as the date of the UN-

* PMI: "Palang Merah Indonesia" (Indonesian Red Cross)

SOUTH-EAST ASIA AND THE FAR EAST JAKARTA

*tension mounts over
East Timor's future*

situation out of control

emergency response in East Timor

PROTECTION	2,118,186
ASSISTANCE	19,889,293
PREVENTIVE ACTION	1,082,148
COOPERATION WITH THE NATIONAL SOCIETY	1,033,644
OVERHEADS	1,552,522
GENERAL	1,402,546
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	Sfr 27,078,340

administered ballot drew near. The ICRC, which was already running protection, health and water and sanitation programmes in the territory, monitored the mounting violence closely. During an official visit to Indonesia in February, the ICRC President discussed the ICRC's concern over the situation in East Timor and other humanitarian issues with the Indonesian President and the Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Defence.

As tension in East Timor mounted, the ICRC office in Dili built up emergency stocks and the delegation in Jakarta worked to help improve the emergency response capacity of the PMI. In September, when the results of the ballot showed that a large majority of the population was in favour of independence, an explosion of violence forced nearly all East Timorese to flee their homes, either to isolated inland areas, to West Timor or to other islands of the Indonesian archipelago. A multinational peace-keeping force, INTERFET,* was deployed and the Indonesian armed forces withdrew from East Timor. The People's Consultative Assembly revoked the decree declaring the integration of East Timor into Indonesia, paving the way for the formation of a new independent Asian state. Xanana Gusmao, the leader of the CNRT* and former military leader of the East Timorese force Falintil returned in October, and the UNTAET* was established to administer the transition to independence.

On 6 September, shortly after the violence erupted, the ICRC compound in Dili was attacked and the expatriate staff forced to leave the island. The ICRC returned to Dili on 14 September. It restored medical and surgical services at Dili General Hospital, re-established the Dili water supply, made distributions of food and other basic necessities in Dili to people who were starting to return en masse, and started protection activities that included tracing services to help separated family members. Relief bases were set up in Darwin⁵ and Surabaya (Java) to provide logistical back-up, and the National Societies were asked to help provide staff. Over 50 expatriates were quickly deployed to manage emergency operations.

As security conditions permitted, ICRC offices were opened in Ainaro and Baucau and the focus of relief activity was shifted to remote areas that were not being assisted by other organizations. Besides distributing food, basic necessities and shelter materials, the ICRC also provided seeds and tools to help returnees regain self-sufficiency.

The ICRC consulted with INTERFET and later UNTAET in order to ensure that their detention procedures complied with humanitarian law, and regularly visited detainees held under their authority. It also monitored the situation of returnees and released detainees, approaching the authorities about alleged instances of intimidation or reprisal, and encouraging them to take measures to protect all sectors of the population.

In the wake of the dramatic events in East Timor, the ICRC engaged the Indonesian authorities on several occasions in a dialogue concerning respect for humanitarian law. Similar discussions were held with the States which had made contingents available to the multinational force, and with representatives of the pro-Indonesian militias in West Timor.

* INTERFET: International Force for East Timor

* CNRT: Council of National Resistance in East Timor

* UNTAET: United Nations Transitional Administration In East Timor

⁵ Financed and staffed by the Australian Red Cross.

SOUTH-EAST ASIA AND THE FAR EAST JAKARTA

re-establishing family links

The ICRC set up message distribution points around East and West Timor, and the names of persons to whom messages were addressed were broadcast on the BBC World Service. Tracing teams registered unaccompanied children and engaged in an active search for the parents in East and West Timor. Of the thousands of families dispersed within Timor and around the archipelago, the ICRC reunited those whose separation had left some members particularly vulnerable. It also facilitated the repatriation of mortal remains.

*joint Red Cross activities
in West Timor*

As the post-ballot violence spread, many East Timorese fled to West Timor, where 250,000 people sought refuge in camps for the displaced. These included both people who had been expelled from East Timor by militias opposed to independence, and those who had fled spontaneously. Offices were opened in Atambua and Kupang to manage joint PMI/ICRC operations in favour of East Timorese living in the camps. The offices provided tracing services, distributed basic household and shelter material, improved water and sanitation systems, and established health posts to provide basic medical care for camp residents. At the end of year over 100,000 people were still living in camps for the displaced in West Timor.

*dissemination to members
of the military and police*

Continuing its promotion of the systematic teaching of humanitarian law in armed forces training programmes, the ICRC prompted the formation in May of a permanent working group on the law of armed conflict within the Indonesian Armed Forces. Knowing that tangible results cannot be achieved overnight, ICRC stepped up its efforts in this field, making presentations to military and police units involved in maintaining law and order around the archipelago. These included police forces sent to East Timor, high ranking military officers and military lawyers.

*spreading awareness
of humanitarian principles
throughout society*

The regional delegation in Jakarta continued to work with many Indonesian groups and institutions, including members of the Ministry of Justice and prison officials, in order to promote respect for humanitarian law and principles and foster understanding of its activities.

In order to stir interest in humanitarian law and principles in academic circles, the delegation in Jakarta maintained contact with universities around the archipelago, conducting seminars and presentations for law professors. In cooperation with the Trisakti University Center for the Study of International Humanitarian Law, the ICRC organized an event to mark the 50th anniversary of the Geneva Conventions and launched the ICRC publication entitled "Traditional laws of war in Indonesia". With a view to heightening public awareness of humanitarian issues and principles, it made presentations to journalists on humanitarian law and ICRC activities and working methods.

developments in Malaysia

Malaysia ratified the Ottawa treaty banning landmines, and formed a Committee of International Law within its armed forces. The ICRC conducted dissemination activities in the country and cooperated with the Malaysian Red Crescent Society, participating in several of its activities.

SOUTH-EAST ASIA AND THE FAR EAST JAKARTA

IN 1999 THE ICRC:



- visited 135 detainees in 13 places of detention under Indonesian authority in East Timor, and 47 persons detained by multinational authorities;
- visited 72 detainees in 32 places of detention in Indonesia;
- with the PMI, organized family visits for 34 detainees being held in Indonesia far from their homes;
- organized the transport home of 40 released detainees in Indonesia;



- opened 37 tracing cases in Indonesia and 196 cases in Timor regarding persons who remained unaccounted for after arrest;
- in cooperation with the PMI, distributed 18,324 of approximately 40,300 Red Cross messages collected, and logged 2,003 satellite telephone calls in order to help family members separated by the East Timor crisis to recontact their next-of-kin;
- registered 420 unaccompanied children in East and West Timor, worked to locate their families, and helped reunite 68 of them with their families;
- reunited 222 families separated by the upheaval in East Timor;



- in East Timor, distributed 2,346 tonnes of food and 768 tonnes of material assistance to 70,000 people in Dili and 105,000 persons in other areas of East Timor;
- distributed agricultural tools and 108.6 metric tonnes of seeds to help returnees in East Timor regain self-sufficiency;
- provided 451 families in East Timor with the materials and technical assistance to build temporary shelters;
- in cooperation with the PMI, distributed 268 tonnes of food and 197 tonnes of material assistance to over 30,000 persons displaced by fighting in Ambon and West Kalimantan;
- In Aceh, in cooperation with the PMI, provided 51 tonnes of food and more than 3 tonnes of material assistance to some 3,000 vulnerable persons who were the victims of violence there;
- in West Timor, distributed 279 tonnes of food and 282 tonnes of emergency material assistance such as plastic sheeting, tarpaulins, and basic household articles to more than 150,000 persons who had fled East Timor;

SOUTH-EAST ASIA AND THE FAR EAST JAKARTA



- before the crisis erupted in East Timor, conducted regular visits to 32 remote villages to ensure mass treatment of scabies and intestinal parasites, and held health education sessions;
- after its return to Dili, provided the funds, personnel and medical supplies needed to restore and maintain medical, surgical, paediatric and obstetric services at Dili General Hospital, treating 969 in-patients and 10,891 out-patients and serving as the only referral hospital in East Timor;
- made health surveys and provided medical materials to humanitarian organizations, INTERFET medical facilities, dispensaries and mobile clinics providing medical care after the crisis in East Timor, and made 15 medical evacuations from isolated areas;
- in cooperation with the PMI, established 12 health posts in camps for the displaced in West Timor which provided basic medical treatment for as many as 200 patients a day;




- improved water installations for over 4,000 people in East Timor before the crisis;
- provided the personnel, funds and materials needed to restore the Dili water supply system after the crisis, including the salaries for 32 Dili Water Board workers;
- in cooperation with the PMI, delivered water tanks and built basic latrines in camps for the displaced in Aceh;



- provided financial, material and technical support to the PMI for its programmes to care for the wounded in situations of violence;
- gave presentations on humanitarian law, Red Cross principles and the role of the National Society in a 10-day PMI "train the trainers" workshop on disaster preparedness, and in a 3-day PMI seminar in Bandung for 300 Red Cross youth members;
- in cooperation with the Federation and the Malaysian Red Crescent, prepared to implement the "Exploring humanitarian law" educational project for teenagers.
- supported and participated in PMI branch activities on respect of the emblem for 30 students and Red Cross volunteers in Manado and 150 academics and civic leaders in Yogyakarta.

SOUTH-EAST ASIA AND THE FAR EAST JAKARTA



- presented Red Cross principles and humanitarian law to members of the Indonesian armed forces, including 1,200 soldiers and 60 officers in Aceh, and 373 members of the Mobile Brigades from Aceh and East Timor;
 - gave presentations on humanitarian law to members of Indonesian police forces, including training sessions held in West Java for 900 policemen and similar sessions for 1,350 policemen who were being dispatched to East Timor;
 - organized a 2-week course on humanitarian law for 48 military lawyers and high-ranking officers from all 10 Indonesian military commands (KODAM), the special force (KOPASUS), the army strategic-reserve command (KOSTRAD) and operational troops; also organized a seminar for 81 air force lawyers and administrative officers;
 - in cooperation with Syiah Kuala University, conducted a one-week seminar on humanitarian law for 55 law lecturers from universities in Aceh, and for other participants from the PMI, the military command, the city police and the Legal Aid Foundation;
 - organized an advanced course on humanitarian law for university professors at the Trisakti University Centre for the Study of International Humanitarian Law, and provided advanced training in humanitarian law at several universities for lecturers from Sumatra, Java, Kalimantan, and the Eastern regions of Indonesia;
 - with Syiah Kuala University and the Indonesian Journalist Association, organized a seminar on the protection afforded to journalists by humanitarian law, which was attended by over 50 participants in related fields;
 - with the Dr. Soetomo Press Institute, organized a panel discussion on the same subject for 106 participants;
 - conducted a course on humanitarian law for 36 officers of the Malaysian armed forces;
-
- 
- supported and participated in a regional conference on landmines held in Bali; organized by the International Campaign to Ban Landmines, the conference was attended by 35 participants from 15 countries;
 - sponsored an exhibition on landmines in Denpasar.

SOUTH-EAST ASIA AND THE FAR EAST MANILA

MANILA

Regional delegation

(Australia, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Nauru, New Zealand, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, Autonomous States, territories and colonies of the Pacific)

*Red Cross assistance
to displaced in Mindanao*

*protecting civilians
in areas of fighting*

*visits to detainees
in the Philippines*

*intercommunal violence
in the Solomon Islands*

*over 10,000 displaced
by violence in Guadalcanal*

In 1999, the Philippines were still suffering from the effect of the economic downturn that began in 1997 in many Asian countries. A high rate of unemployment and rapid population growth combined to push more people into poverty. The government met rising crime with a crackdown which, while managing to reduce the crime rate, overstretched the country's prison and judicial systems.

The Philippine government continued to be engaged in two separate armed struggles: the campaign against the communist NPA* and the conflict in Mindanao with the MILF.* In April, the ICRC acted as a neutral intermediary when the NPA released five captured Philippine military and police officers. In June, formal peace talks between the government and the NPA and associated political parties broke down. Later in the year more tension was generated when the NPA again captured an army officer and a police officer.

In January, heavy fighting between the AFP* and the MILF around the MILF's Camp Omar forced the temporary displacement of an estimated 50,000 people. The ICRC and the Philippine National Red Cross Society provided food for families in evacuation centres. MILF/AFP clashes continued sporadically until the end of the year, and joint Red Cross relief distributions to temporarily displaced families were therefore maintained.

In areas where the hostilities escalated, the ICRC maintained contact with the AFP and with political groups associated with the NPA and the MILF, in order to promote the unconditional application of humanitarian principles and to foster respect for the civilian population.

The ICRC continued its visits to persons detained in connection with both conflicts. The ICRC's findings in the various detention facilities continued to be the object of substantive dialogue with the relevant authorities of the Philippine government.

In the Solomon Islands, grievances over traditional land rights were fanned by economic decline and resulted in disturbances in Guadalcanal. In April, violence erupted between the natives of Guadalcanal (the Gwale) and people of Malaitan origin. The government declared a state of emergency on 15 June. The newly-formed GRA* took control of all of the province but the capital, Honiara. The intercommunal violence had abated by August, when a Commonwealth mediation effort resulted in the signature of a peace agreement. The state of emergency was lifted and the situation remained calm through the remainder of the year.

As a result of the disturbances there, about 10,000 Malaitans fled Guadalcanal to return to Malaita, and several thousand Gwale fled Honiara to outlying areas. In June, the ICRC and the Solomon Islands Red Cross ran six reception centres and helped some 8,000 people to leave Guadalcanal by boat, providing them with food. The ICRC served as a neutral intermediary in negotiations to ensure the delivery of medical supplies to outlying health posts whose supply lines had been cut by the disturbances, and escorted deliveries across lines. In July and early August, the joint Red Cross relief operation distributed food assistance, seeds, tools and soap in Malaita to families who had fled there, and soon afterwards made similar distributions to those who had fled Honiara to the province of Guadalcanal.

* NPA: New People's Army

* MILF: Moro Islamic Liberation Front

* AFP: Philippine Armed Forces

* GRA: Guadalcanal Revolutionary Army

instability in Pacific islands

*logistic support
for East Timor operations*

preventive activities

*dissemination to military, security
and opposition forces*

In late June, the ICRC began visiting detainees held in Honiara in connection with the events, and in the following months it received systematic notification of arrests from the authorities and made regular visits to places of detention in accordance with its standard procedures.

Limited resources, trade barriers and internal discord further undermined the economies of several Pacific islands. In Fiji, Samoa, and Vanuatu, ethnic and tribal rivalries resurfaced to challenge stability. In Papua New Guinea the peace process advanced slowly and a fragile stability was maintained.

The Australian Red Cross was quick to provide personnel and office space for the ICRC logistical base in Darwin which backed up ICRC relief operations in East Timor.

Throughout the region, the ICRC continued to promote humanitarian law and principles among members of the armed forces and other arms bearers, to encourage the ratification and implementation of humanitarian law treaties, and to spread knowledge of humanitarian principles at all levels of society. The ICRC office in Sydney encouraged the implementation of humanitarian law in Pacific island States, and maintained contact with government, academic and National Society representatives to discuss humanitarian needs in the region. Together with the Australian government, the ICRC organized and financed a seminar on the law of armed conflict held in the framework of the ASEAN Regional Forum.

In the Philippines and the Solomon Islands the ICRC gave talks on humanitarian law to members of the armed and security forces, and to members of armed opposition groups.

IN 1999 THE ICRC:



- visited 357 detainees in 91 places of detention in the Philippines;
- financed 122 family visits to those detained far from their homes;
- visited 43 persons detained in the Solomon Islands in connection with the unrest there;



- in cooperation with the Philippine National Red Cross, supplied 356 tonnes of food and more than 11 tonnes of material assistance to families displaced by the fighting in Mindanao;
- in cooperation with the Solomon Islands Red Cross, provided transportation for 8,000 people returning to Malaita from Guadalcanal, and more than 260 tonnes of food and 17 tonnes of material assistance such as tarpaulins, soap, and materials for planting and fishing to over 3,300 families displaced by unrest on Guadalcanal;



- in the Philippines, provided ad hoc assistance of medicines and surgical materials for the treatment of 80 people wounded in separate incidents;



- jointly with the Philippine National Red Cross, hosted seven youth volunteers from the Hong Kong Red Cross visiting the Philippines to speak with people in Mindanao as part of the "People on War" campaign;
- financed the printing of 40,000 brochures for use in Philippine Red Cross dissemination activities, and paid the salary of one National Society dissemination officer;



- with the Australian government, organized and financed the ASEAN Regional Forum seminar on the law of armed conflict, during which military training officers and senior government officials from 20 countries participated in three days of training in humanitarian law issues and training methods;
- gave presentations on humanitarian law to more than 500 members of the Philippine armed forces, and funded training materials to be used by the armed forces working group on humanitarian law;
- held dissemination sessions for over 700 members of armed groups in the Philippines and Solomon Islands;
- held sessions on the ICRC mandate and activities of the ICRC for staff and volunteers of the Philippine National Red Cross, and for local leaders;
- conducted a session on ICRC detention activities for 40 jail wardens from the Philippine Bureau of Jail Management and Penology;
- held a seminar in Honiara for government officials to encourage the adoption of national measures for the implementation of humanitarian law;
- in Papua New Guinea, organized two courses on humanitarian law and the Red Cross Movement for 50 members of the police force;
- in Fiji, organized one course on humanitarian law for 25 members of the police force, and another for 25 members of the military;
- with the Australian Red Cross, conducted a seminar to present issues related to media coverage and humanitarian action to media representatives.

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN



This nine-year-old boy was playing football when he was hit by gunfire during a guerrilla attack on his village. ICRC medical and limb-fitting programmes around the world help the war-wounded recover from their injuries and regain mobility.

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

ICRC delegations:

Colombia, Mexico, Peru

ICRC regional delegations:

Brasilia, Buenos Aires,
Guatemala City

Staff

ICRC expatriates¹: 95

National Societies¹: 11

Local employees²: 314

Total expenditure: Sfr 48,134,588.56

Expenditure breakdown:

Protection: 9,069,646.46

Assistance: 17,946,162.81

Preventive action: 9,255,314.83

Cooperation with National Societies:
3,263,683.09

Overheads: 2,888,034.09

General: 5,711,747.37



+ ICRC regional delegation +• ICRC delegation + ICRC mission

¹ Average figures calculated on an annual basis.

² Under ICRC contract, as at December 1999.

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

During the year under review, most countries in Latin America and the Caribbean presented a picture of economic fragility and few of them experienced positive growth. Recession and rising unemployment rates in several countries resulted in unrest, reflecting the waning patience of the general public. Some positive steps were made towards peace, however; these included the resolution of the border dispute between Chile and Argentina and the implementation by Ecuador and Peru of a peace agreement concluded in 1998.

The protracted peace negotiations in Colombia had brought about no tangible solutions to the long-running conflict by the end of the year. The economy took a downturn, as did public morale, and the violence continued. The ICRC increased its presence in Colombia in 1999 to a total of 16 sub-delegations and offices in response to the plight of the countless civilians driven to seek refuge in safer areas. Clashes between opposing forces and the resulting hardship for civilians caught in the middle made ICRC action imperative. Relief work was stepped up and mobile health units were sent into remote areas, all part of a sweeping effort to alleviate the suffering of communities in conflict zones.

In Mexico, discussions between the government and the Zapatista National Liberation Army remained at a standstill. In Chiapas, the ICRC put the emphasis on providing effective humanitarian aid for civilians affected by the situation. It afforded various sectors of society, in particular academic and state institutions, the opportunity to become more familiar with the principles of international humanitarian law and human rights, at times in cooperation with other humanitarian agencies.

In Peru, the ICRC focused its efforts on people deprived of their freedom. Security detainees were seen in private, and health care facilities in places of detention were given considerable financial and technical support and assistance. It also attended to the needs of civilians affected by the violence, distributing food and non-food items in the emergency zones. It moved ahead with its dissemination work in the country, as the authorities gave their approval for training courses on humanitarian law and human rights for military and police instructors.

Ecuador was hit by a major economic crisis in 1999. The short-term effects were visible in the form of strikes and public protests, and a situation of political insecurity prevailed. In this context, the ICRC concentrated on spreading knowledge of humanitarian law and principles among those called on to apply them.

The activities of the regional delegation in Guatemala were oriented towards dissemination and humanitarian diplomacy. Special attention was given to the incorporation of the law of armed conflict into the training programmes of the region's armed forces. The delegation's legal department continued to advise government officials and lawyers on matters related to the implementation of humanitarian law and to regional cooperation with the OAS.* In Haiti, detainees and their basic rights and conditions of detention were the focus of ICRC action.

The ICRC's perseverance in disseminating humanitarian law paid off with the "train the trainers" project for military police in Brazil, whereby humanitarian principles and basic human rights became an integral part of police teaching.

The national committees for implementation of humanitarian law established in most Latin American countries remained high on the list of ICRC priorities as the cor-

* OAS: Organization of American States

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

nerstone of its plan to create a favourable environment in each country for national implementation of and respect for humanitarian law.

Partly as a result of these efforts, Panama declared its recognition of the competence of the International Fact-Finding Commission, Nicaragua became party to the Protocols additional to the 1949 Geneva Conventions, and Cuba ratified Additional Protocol II. Trinidad and Tobago became the first Latin American or Caribbean State to ratify the Statute for an International Criminal Court adopted in Rome in 1998.

The Ottawa treaty banning the use of landmines entered into force in March 1999, and delegations in Latin America continued to push for its ratification and for acceptance of an OAS idea, put forward in 1998, to declare the Americas a mine-free hemisphere. Ten Latin American and Caribbean States ratified the treaty in 1999, bringing to 25 the total number to have done so.

The ICRC Spanish-language Web site, managed by the regional delegation in Buenos Aires, continued to serve as a valuable reference centre for the Spanish-speaking Latin American public. The site was modified in 1999 to prepare it for the vital role it will play in the new regional communication support centre for Latin America, due to be launched in January 2000.

The 50th anniversary of the 1949 Geneva Conventions and the 27th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent provided delegations throughout the region with countless opportunities to spread awareness of current humanitarian issues and to present the ICRC message, with the support of the media, to a wide audience.

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN COLOMBIA

COLOMBIA

PROTECTION

5,613,208

ASSISTANCE

12,361,282

PREVENTIVE ACTION

3,021,696

COOPERATION WITH THE NATIONAL SOCIETY

786,463

OVERHEADS

1,548,339

GENERAL

2,377,992

TOTAL EXPENDITURE Sfr 25,708,980



⊕ ICRC delegation ⊕ ICRC sub-delegation + ICRC office

Efforts towards peace were maintained throughout the year by the parties to the conflict and culminated in formal negotiations between the government and the FARC.* The zone from which the Colombian government had withdrawn its military forces held fast in spite of several setbacks.

In spite of these efforts, the two main armed opposition groups, the FARC and the ELN,* stepped up their attacks on government forces. "Autodefensas", or self-defence groups, united under the AUC,* continued their offensive for territorial control. In many cases, civilians were the first victims of the violence. Bolívar and Córdoba departments experienced the worst fighting and growing tension throughout the year. Mass displacements of civilians occurred, increasing the demand for protection and assistance and prompting the ICRC to extend the period of aid, especially in emergency situations.

The situation was exacerbated by the worst economic crisis to hit Colombia in 50 years. The government was confronted not only with the challenge of settling the

* FARC: "Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia" (Colombian Revolutionary Armed Forces)

* ELN: "Ejército de Liberación Nacional" (National Liberation Army)

* AUC: "Autodefensas Unidas de Colombia" (United Self-defence Groups of Colombia)

*tense situation exacerbated
by economic crisis*

*assistance for internally
displaced people*

*protection of the civilian
population*

*activities for people deprived
of their freedom*

internal conflict, but also with the problem of easing the social unrest that accompanied the economic situation. Colombia's struggling economy suffered a further setback at the end of January when a severe earthquake struck four departments, causing widespread damage and numerous casualties.

Inevitably, Colombia's internal situation had a negative effect on its neighbours and on potential foreign investment. Foreign investors shunned a country suffering from political and economic instability. The influx into Venezuela of Colombian civilian refugees affected relations between the two countries, and early in the year Ecuador temporarily stepped up its military presence on the northern border with Colombia. Peru did the same and Panama was concerned by the spillover effects of the Colombian conflict into its own territory.

In 1999, the number of people displaced from conflict areas reached huge proportions. In some cases entire villages relocated to comparatively peaceful areas. The ICRC, together with other humanitarian organizations and government bodies, took action to provide these new communities with continuous protection and assistance as necessary. It did the same thing for individual displaced persons many of whom headed for towns, where they faced problems of acceptance by local residents and adaptation to a new way of life. The ICRC held discussions with the authorities and the armed opposition groups on the possibility of displaced persons returning to their homes.

As a result of these large-scale population movements, the ICRC decided to become more involved in providing relief aid in 1999 and to supplement the assistance provided by other humanitarian bodies.

In another development, when local authorities in Barranquilla helped plan an assistance project supported by the Catholic Church and the Colombian Red Cross, the ICRC established an implementation method for use in the framework of an integrated aid network. The aim was to transfer responsibility for the project to the local authorities. The success of the project prompted the ICRC to envisage similar initiatives in other areas.

Since civilians were still the primary victims of the assassinations, massacres and bomb attacks in public places that had become commonplace in Colombia, the ICRC continued to place special emphasis on their protection. It nurtured and maintained the contacts previously established with all parties to the conflict with the aim of promoting respect for humanitarian law and the fundamental rights of the civilian population. Kidnapping remained a major problem throughout Colombia in 1999. Consequently, the ICRC made every effort to ensure that the fundamental rights of hostages were respected and that they were given the possibility of using the Red Cross message service to stay in contact with their families.

Prison riots and acts of violence among detainees were widespread in 1999 and often resulted in fatalities. The ICRC played a crucial role as an intermediary in such instances.

In 1999, Colombia had a prison population of about 48,000 detainees. Places of detention became increasingly overcrowded, and as a result conditions of detention deteriorated over the year. The ICRC monitored those conditions closely and submitted reports to the authorities. Since government funding for places of detention was limited, the ICRC not only visited detainees, it also provided financial support to

*medical assistance
and mobile health units*

*a wide range
of dissemination activities*

Colombian Red Cross Society

acting as a neutral intermediary

*cooperation with
other organizations*

the prison health services for the purchase of medicines and medical equipment and helped finance medical and surgical treatment for detainees.

About 500 members of the police and armed forces were still being held by the armed opposition groups. In spite of its repeated efforts to visit these detainees, the ICRC was refused access to them and had to limit its activities on their behalf to the sporadic exchange of Red Cross messages.

Colombian law provides for free medical treatment for displaced persons and those wounded in the conflict. Government funds are limited, however, and some hospitals had to close in 1999 for financial reasons. The ICRC provided financial assistance to displaced persons in need of medical care and to those wounded in the conflict, and supplied material to medical centres in areas of tension.

In response to a growing demand for medical care from communities in remote areas and conflict zones, the ICRC maintained its medical assistance network of mobile health units. The units were run by an ICRC health delegate, local staff and personnel from the Ministry of Health. Medical assistance projects of this kind were also delegated to the National Societies of Norway, Germany and Sweden for implementation in Urabá, Caguán and Putumayo, respectively.

A large-scale media campaign carried out during the year highlighted the security of and respect for health personnel carrying out medical missions in conflict situations. The aim was to encourage all arms carriers to respect medical missions so that health care could be provided without constraints. The ICRC also ran a general programme to promote humanitarian law throughout the country, particularly in military and police academies. Dissemination sessions on humanitarian law and the ICRC mandate were organized for armed opposition groups and contact was established or maintained with administrative authorities to discuss the ICRC mandate and its specific role in Colombia, and the incorporation of humanitarian law in domestic legislation.

The ICRC continued to cooperate closely with the Colombian Red Cross Society, placing the emphasis on reinforcing the Society's capacity to provide training courses and carry out other dissemination activities, especially in conflict zones. It supported the National Society in disseminating humanitarian law, especially through innovative ways of spreading knowledge of Red Cross principles among young people. Presentations were adapted for use in schools and contacts were developed with the media and academic circles. The ICRC also cooperated with the National Society in providing relief assistance to civilians in need.

The ICRC continued to play its unique role as a neutral intermediary in meetings between armed opposition groups, local authorities and civilians, and also as an adviser to the government and the armed opposition groups on all aspects of humanitarian law which were gradually being incorporated into political negotiations. This position of trust constitutes a solid building block for future discussions with the warring factions at all levels.

The ICRC and UNHCR reviewed their activities in the country to ensure that they did not duplicate each other's efforts. The ICRC and the Colombian Red Cross Society cooperated with NGOs and with the "Red de Solidaridad Social", a governmental entity legally responsible for displaced persons, in the enormous task of providing assistance.

IN 1999 THE ICRC:



- visited 2,496 detainees, 1,063 of them for the first time, in 147 places of detention and submitted reports on conditions of detention to all the parties involved;
- supplied detainees with clothing and medical, dental and recreational material;
- financed medical or surgical treatment for 308 detainees;
- enabled 441 family members to visit detained relatives;
- financed the return to their homes of 295 people on their release from captivity;
- provided physiotherapy and rehabilitation material to 4 prisons in Bogotá and Cali;
- organized the exchange of Red Cross messages between families and hostages, detainees, displaced persons and members of the armed forces in the hands of armed opposition groups;
- monitored the release of 7 members of the armed forces who had been held by armed opposition groups;



- monitored the release of 138 civilians who had been held captive by armed groups and freed under ICRC auspices;
- submitted reports to the authorities and to the armed opposition groups on 959 cases of alleged violations of humanitarian law involving 1,960 individuals;
- enabled over 2,000 individuals whose lives were in danger to relocate to safer areas;



- jointly with the Colombian Red Cross Society, distributed food parcels, hygiene kits and mattresses to over 120,000 civilians in need of assistance;
- on the Pacific coast started distributions of farm implements and fishing equipment to enable 3,000 people to regain a degree of self-sufficiency;
- increased the six-week period of assistance to displaced individuals to three months;



- through projects delegated to the National Societies of Norway, Germany and Sweden, extended the medical assistance network by increasing the number of mobile health units capable of operating in remote or conflict areas in the regions of Magdalena Medio, Urabá, Caguán and Putumayo;
- financed medical and surgical treatment for people wounded as a result of the conflict and for displaced persons, and supplied medical equipment and material to hospitals;



- with the help of the Colombian Red Cross, carried out numerous dissemination sessions;
- under a cooperation agreement concluded in 1998, worked closely with the National Society on staff training, dissemination among the armed forces, security during field operations, communication, fundraising and reinforcing the National Society's administration;

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN COLOMBIA



- carried out dissemination sessions for members of armed opposition groups;
- conducted a large-scale media campaign with the aim of reinforcing the security of medical missions in conflict situations;
- developed a training programme on human rights and humanitarian law for military instructors for implementation with battalions in the field;
- set up a programme with a "train the trainers" component for formal human rights instruction in police academies.

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN MEXICO

MEXICO

PROTECTION

391,123

ASSISTANCE

3,249,155

PREVENTIVE ACTION

620,753

COOPERATION WITH THE NATIONAL SOCIETY

940,417

OVERHEADS

382,810

GENERAL

761,556

TOTAL EXPENDITURE

Sfr 6,345,814



ICRC delegation



ICRC sub-delegation

In 1999, campaigning for the mid-2000 presidential election got underway in Mexico, and dialogue between the government and the EZLN* stagnated. The situation in Chiapas remained generally stable.

The ICRC made the premises of its sub-delegation in San Cristóbal de las Casas available to groups of different opinions in order to facilitate discussion of humanitarian issues on neutral ground, a successful initiative that resulted in dialogue between the various communities in the Los Altos region.

Heavy rainfall in Chiapas and central Mexico at the end of the year resulted in a 50 % loss in the maize and coffee harvest and caused serious setbacks to ICRC agricultural projects. Together with the German, Spanish and Mexican National Societies, the ICRC provided regular assistance to civilians affected by the situation in Chiapas. It also organized courses on improving crop yields, planted and maintained demonstration plots and supplied maize seeds to families in Chiapas. Several projects to provide safe drinking water and monitor water supplies were carried out in the same area for vulnerable communities.

* EZLN: "Ejército Zapatista de Liberación Nacional" (Zapatista National Liberation Army)

assistance for civilians in Chiapas

a cooperative dissemination effort

The ICRC backed Mexican Red Cross activities to provide far-reaching medical and food assistance in Chiapas for displaced persons and residents. It also gave the National Society financial assistance to purchase medicines and medical material, train human resources and maintain its fleet of vehicles. ICRC medical staff ran workshops for health care workers on basic health, hygiene and environmental issues, and accompanied medical "Secretaría de Salud"* personnel, enabling them to reach communities which usually refused government-run health care.

Dissemination occupied an important place in ICRC activities in Mexico during the year, and projects run jointly by the ICRC, UNHCR and the CNDH* continued to promote humanitarian law, human rights and refugee rights in universities. Seminars run in cooperation with the CNDH in several military zones focused on humanitarian law, human rights and the role of the ICRC.

The delegation sponsored a seminar on humanitarian law and the ethics of police conduct in cooperation with the Human Rights Training Section at the Office of the Attorney General for the Republic. The seminar, which took place in October, was attended by about 30 officers from the Attorney General's office, police officers, public officials and instructors from the police academy.

At the end of the year, the Mexico-Central America Regional Seminar for human rights teachers was held in Mexico City, organized jointly by the delegation, the UNESCO representative at the National Autonomous University of Mexico, the Inter-American Institute of Human Rights and the American University. Professors from Central America and the coordinator for UNESCO in Mexico spoke about their experiences in establishing teaching programmes on human rights at university level, while the delegation spoke about the importance of incorporating humanitarian law into educational programmes on human rights. The seminar was attended by about 30 professors and NGO representatives from Mexico, Central America and South America.

In the framework of a university project run jointly by the delegation, the CNDH and UNHCR, a regional seminar was held on international protection of the individual in Monterrey in November for 30 professors from the Technological Institute and from law faculties.

* "Secretaría de Salud", government health service

* CNDH: "Comisión nacional de derechos humanos" (National Human Rights Commission)

IN 1999 THE ICRC:



- visited 216 detainees coming under the ICRC mandate, including 130 for the first time in Chiapas;
- enabled detainees to communicate with their families by means of Red Cross messages;



- visited municipalities in Chiapas in order to develop contacts with the local authorities, discuss access to displaced persons and assess the latter's needs;



- provided regular supplies of food rations and hygiene items to 9,500 beneficiaries, most of them internally displaced persons, in Chiapas;
- provided seeds to 1,000 farming families and followed up 29 demonstration plots to increase maize yields in 16 locations for victims of the heavy rainfall in Chiapas;



- continued to provide basic health care services to 16,000 beneficiaries in Chiapas;
- accompanied the National Society's medical teams on regular visits to 60 remote villages in Chiapas whose residents had no easy access to or refused government health services ;
- gave 46,000 medical consultations in health care facilities and remote villages;
- accompanied National Society or government health service staff on vaccination campaigns for 2,300 children in 60 remote villages;
- ran 12 workshops in Chiapas to train over 150 health care workers in basic health, hygiene and environmental issues;



- implemented 16 water projects in Chiapas, supplying a total of 10,000 displaced persons and residents with safe drinking water; the communities concerned participated in the projects, thereby increasing the likelihood that they would maintain the projects in the future;



- continued to provide the Mexican Red Cross Society with financial and material assistance for 6 basic health care facilities in Chiapas and for food aid to communities there;



- together with the Mexican Red Cross, organized an information session in December for representatives of state and federal authorities, aimed at improving their understanding of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.

PERU



ICRC delegation
 ICRC sub-delegation
 ICRC office or other presence

As in previous years, the ICRC centred its activities in Peru on people deprived of their freedom and civilians affected by the internal violence. Unexploded landmines, laid during the border dispute with Ecuador, remained a security problem for the government. Emergency laws were lifted around Lima for the first time in 13 years in June, but clashes continued to occur from time to time between the armed forces and opposition groups, especially in San Martín, Ayacucho, Huánuco, Junín and Cusco departments. In May, heavy flooding devastated Coronel Portillo province in the department of Ucayali, further undermining the already unstable agricultural situation.

The ICRC was generally well accepted throughout the country by all sectors of society. It provided food, clothing and subsistence items to civilians affected by violence or natural disaster in the emergency zones, in which it had been present for ten years. Five ICRC delegates posted to Tingo María, Huancayo and Ayacucho made regular visits to communities in those regions. Civilian populations in areas affected by the violence were given medical assistance. The ICRC also financed supplies for State-run hospitals, and paid for medical treatment for victims of the unrest.

ICRC presence in the field

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN PERU

*activities for people deprived
of their freedom*

*spreading awareness
of humanitarian law*

*cooperation
with the National Society*

The ICRC made regular visits to people being held for investigation by DINCOTE* and to security detainees held in temporary or permanent places of detention under the authority of the Ministry of Justice. The conditions of detention were monitored with respect to the detainees' rights to basic judicial guarantees, humane treatment and medical care. Health care and AIDS information campaigns were carried out in the prisons. The ICRC financed family visits to hospitalized detainees and covered their medical costs. It also funded seminars on drug administration and management and the use of natural medicines for health staff in places of detention in the Lima region.

The ICRC maintained regular contact with the relevant authorities in Peru. It held discussions with the Ministry of Justice and other high-level authorities on the adoption of national measures for the implementation of humanitarian law.

The ICRC focused its 1999 dissemination activities on the armed and police forces, where knowledge of humanitarian law and human rights had yet to be officially recognized. An ICRC training course on humanitarian law was given to military instructors, a group of whom was subsequently sent, at times accompanied by ICRC delegates, to the emergency zones to instruct army units posted in those areas. In addition, the ICRC was formally requested by the armed forces to provide training courses for senior army and navy officers.

Another priority target group for dissemination was the younger generation, especially in the emergency zones. Surrounded by violence, young people had little opportunity to learn about humanitarian principles and rules. Over the years, puppet shows have proved to be an effective way of making these principles relevant to this sector of society. Visits to secondary schools and universities were carried out with the aim of promoting ICRC activities and its scope of action. Universities were helped to incorporate humanitarian law into their curricula.

The ICRC gave financial support to the Peruvian Red Cross Society to enable it to continue its "train the trainers" courses and other dissemination activities.

* DINCOTE: "Dirección Nacional contra el Terrorismo", anti-terrorist unit

IN 1999 THE ICRC:



- carried out regular visits to 58 security detainees being held for investigation by DINCOTE;
- visited 3,353 detainees held in connection with the conflict in 187 places of detention, 509 for the first time;
- visited 8 institutions for minors;
- issued 23,973 transport vouchers for family visits to detainees;
- financed medical treatment for 104 hospitalized detainees and 1,159 consultations for inmates on an outpatient basis;
- purchased 275 dental prostheses and 711 pairs of eyeglasses for detainees;
- enabled security detainees in remote places of detention to maintain contact with their families through the exchange of 851 Red Cross messages;
- gave medical assistance to 5 security detainees on their release from prison;



- made trips to the field and monitored conditions in communities in the emergency zones, delivering messages from relatives and providing assistance where necessary;
- financed construction work at the centre for women and child victims of violence in Ayacucho;



- provided 3,816 vulnerable people, including widows and orphans and relatives of those wounded in the violence, with clothing, food and subsistence items;
- together with the National Society, supplied food and hygiene items to 4,788 families in the department of Ucayali following the flooding in May;



- ran 9 health care campaigns in various places of detention, including information sessions on tuberculosis and AIDS;
- made 40 deliveries of medical equipment and medicines to dispensaries in places of detention;
- supplied complete dental equipment and paid dentists' salaries in 3 places of detention;
- made 1,031 visits to State-run health facilities;
- financed medical treatment for 289 victims of the violence, including 3 mine victims;



- gave financial support to the Public Relations and Dissemination Department of the Peruvian Red Cross for 12 newsletters;
- provided funds for 4 instructor training courses for Red Cross volunteers on paramedic assistance and emergency medical care, first-aid techniques in natural disaster situations and the setting up of operational relief chains; the courses were held at the Peruvian Red Cross National School of Training;
- provided the Peruvian Red Cross with several vehicles, and the Juanjuí branch with equipment and furniture for its canteen for orphans;

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN PERU



- assisted the Armed Forces Joint Chiefs of Staff in organizing an instructors course on humanitarian law for military and police personnel, including practical exercises in the emergency zones;
- addressed to 1,159 military personnel in 7 military academies on humanitarian law;
- gave presentations to 1,150 police officers on humanitarian law and ICRC activities;
- organized courses on humanitarian law attended by 369 civil servants, 27,884 civilians and 1,478 lawyers;
- together with "Defensoría del pueblo" (the ombudsman's office), ran 2 courses in Lima for 48 police instructors on human rights and the basic rules of humanitarian law to be applied by the police force;
- gave presentations on humanitarian law and the ICRC mandate and activities to 3,604 military personnel in the emergency zones and in military bases; the presentations were made by ICRC personnel and ICRC-trained military instructors;
- conducted 2 training courses for 48 members of the armed and police forces on humanitarian law and human rights and the law of armed conflict;
- helped 3 universities in Lima to incorporate humanitarian law into their curricula;
- organized 103 puppet shows for 74 secondary schools in the emergency zones.

BRASILIA

Regional delegation

(Brazil, Ecuador, Venezuela)

a year of economic crisis

*training the trainers
in Brazil and Ecuador*

In January 1999, the re-elected president of Brazil was confronted with one of the worst economic crises the country had ever known. In spite of the government's efforts to control the financial crisis, the devaluation of the local currency and the flight of foreign capital caused serious economic problems.

The dismal financial climate exacerbated social tensions. The rural population became more militant, especially in the state of Paraná. Urban violence also spread, in particular in Rio de Janeiro and São Paulo, resulting in injuries to civilians and members of the police force.

Ecuador was also plagued by economic problems in 1999, namely the continuing deflation of its currency, high rates of inflation and unemployment, and a heavy external debt. A government curb on spending led to protests by a population weary of the crisis. Strikes paralysed the country in March and July. In early December, the government declared a state of emergency in Guayaquil and reinforced the presence of the national police force and the army there following a marked increase in insecurity in the region. In addition to the social problems generated by the state of the economy, tension escalated on the border with Colombia. Landmines laid during the conflict with Peru continued to take their toll.

In spite of Venezuela's wealth of natural resources, notably its oil fields, the majority of the population was living in difficult conditions. In addition, the country was hit by devastating floods in December.

In Brazil, the ICRC focused on making the authorities and general public aware of its mandate, principles and scope of action. In 1998 it ran its first courses on humanitarian law and human rights for military police instructors, providing training on techniques designed to minimize the use of force and ensure that when force is used it is not excessive. An important aspect of the course was to demonstrate how theory could be incorporated into police work and operations. The "train the trainers" approach, whereby the course participants go on to provide instruction in subsequent courses, was expanded in 1999 in response to the interest shown and the positive experiences of the past.

It is hoped that the Brazilian project will serve as a model for other Latin American countries. Ecuador embarked on a similar two-year programme of humanitarian law and human rights training courses for members of the national police force and the military police in November. The aim of the project, which is supervised by the ICRC, is to train a core of 15 instructors for each of the country's 22 provinces. The practical components of the courses, based on how to minimize the use of force and firearms, will be taught by two members of the Brazilian military police trained by the ICRC.

The ICRC also launched an evaluation of the military police project in Brazil, when it requested the University of São Paulo's Centre for Studies of Violence to assess how well the course contents were being conveyed and absorbed at all stages of the project and how they were being incorporated into the military police force training programme.

In Brazil, the regional delegation was invited to give presentations at several national and international meetings and seminars on the relevance of human rights issues to security forces. The authorities also asked the ICRC to help sponsor and organize a crisis management course for military police officers in ten states, and to train 4,000 new military police recruits in Rio de Janeiro.

Brazil ratifies the Ottawa treaty

*cooperation
with the National Society*

*survey of conditions on the
Venezuelan-Colombian border*

*visits to people deprived
of their freedom*

The delegation commissioned research on the extent to which each country's national legislation was in line with its obligations as a party to a number of international humanitarian law treaties. The results of the research will be communicated to the authorities in each country.

The ICRC advised the Brazilian government on its ratification in April of the Ottawa treaty banning the use of landmines.

The ICRC continued to support the Ecuadorean Red Cross, which is well-respected in the country for its efficiency. The ICRC attended a seminar for the armed forces on crisis management, explaining the role of the National Society in a situation of emergency. The delegation and the National Society also made a presentation to different branches of the armed forces on the application of humanitarian law in situations of internal conflict.

Tension mounted early in the year along the border between Venezuela and Colombia. The Venezuelan government subsequently requested the ICRC to assist in the voluntary repatriation of displaced people from Colombia. The ICRC was also authorized to carry out a survey of the conditions of civilians residing in the border zones and to establish to what extent the violence prevented them from having access to basic government services such as health and education. In the course of these activities, the ICRC took the opportunity to present its mandate to the local authorities.

For the first time under the present Venezuelan government, the ICRC was granted access to security detainees held in connection with the internal conflict in Colombia.

IN 1999 THE ICRC:



- carried out visits to 52 security detainees being held in Venezuela in connection with the internal conflict in Colombia;



- in Venezuela, monitored the voluntary repatriation in June of 2,000 displaced people from Colombia;



- supported the National Society in Ecuador by conducting courses on humanitarian law for the army and navy and the national police force;



- ran a two-week refresher course for the first group of Brazilian military police core instructors, from 19 states, trained in 1998;
- oversaw 21 one- to two-week refresher courses for the second group of 328 core instructors from all states in Brazil, trained in 1998 by the first group;
- ran a three-week training course for a third group of 307 military police instructors, instruction being provided by members of the above two groups;
- initiated instructors' training programmes in Ecuador in November for 15 members of the national police force and 20 members of the military police;
- gave briefings in Ecuador in early December on human rights and humanitarian law to 15 newly trained instructors of the national police force and the members of the armed forces stationed in Guayaquil for the purpose of maintaining order;
- ran four-day courses in Venezuela and Brazil in March on the law of armed conflict for 27 senior army and air force officers.

BUENOS AIRES

Regional delegation

(Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Paraguay, Uruguay)

*ensuring implementation
of humanitarian law*

*visits to people deprived
of their freedom*

*responding to the growing interest
in humanitarian affairs*

In 1999 the countries covered by the regional delegation remained relatively peaceful. Chile and Argentina reached an agreement over their border dispute and mid-year Argentina, Chile and Uruguay embarked on electoral campaigns. Argentina experienced social unrest following the installation of a new government in December and unpopular economic measures brought into force to improve the country's financial climate.

In other developments, in September Argentina ratified the Ottawa treaty banning landmines, bringing to three the number of countries in the region to have done so, and public interest in human rights issues remained high as General Augusto Pinochet continued to be held in custody in London.

By the end of 1999 each country in the region had set up an interministerial committee for the implementation of humanitarian law. The ICRC attended meetings of the Bolivian committee on issues of penal code reform, protection of the red cross emblem and cultural property, and ratification of treaties. In Argentina, the regional delegation met with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in September to finalize a government project to amend the penal code with a view to incorporating measures on non-compliance with the Ottawa treaty and other arms limitation pacts. In Uruguay, it re-established contact with the chairperson of the interministerial committee and with military lawyers from the Military Justice Institute so as to take part in the committee's work.

ICRC delegates visited security detainees in Chile and held talks with the prison authorities on issues relating to conditions of detention. In Bolivia, they interviewed security prisoners in private and monitored their conditions of detention. Assistance was provided where necessary.

In response to the growing interest shown by the armed forces and academic circles in humanitarian law, the ICRC expanded its regional dissemination activities in 1999, giving priority to the establishment of a communication network with the media. The Buenos Aires-based Web site played an essential role in this task.

In preparation for the launch in 2000 of the regional communication support centre for Latin America, which will be based in Buenos Aires, the regional delegate visited the ICRC delegations in Colombia and Venezuela to set up coordination mechanisms. The scope of the Web site in Buenos Aires was increased as part of the preparations for the support centre.

In Argentina, the regional delegation focused its efforts to promote humanitarian law on the armed forces. A joint seminar on the international responsibilities of commanders in military operations, held under the watchword "Even wars have limits", was organized by the delegation and the Argentine Joint Chiefs-of-Staff. The seminar was attended by high-ranking officers from all three branches of the armed forces and military attachés from several countries.

The ICRC ran a refresher course in Chile for senior officers from the Army Superior War College. Participants also included specialized lecturers from military and university circles.

Together with the Uruguayan Ministry of Defence, the ICRC ran a seminar on "Globalization and Sovereignty" during which it presented its position regarding the International Criminal Court. The seminar was attended by members of the armed forces, diplomats and academics from several countries.

50th anniversary activities

cooperation with National Societies

In Paraguay, talks were held with the Minister of Defence, the heads of the armed forces and several contacts at military academies, in order to promote dissemination and training activities in the country.

Universities in the region were encouraged to include humanitarian law and the role of humanitarian organizations in their curricula. The ICRC ran seminars on humanitarian law in universities in Chile, Paraguay and Uruguay for professors, students and military experts. Its refresher courses on international humanitarian law for university professors regularly brought about 90 university professors in the region up to date on developments in humanitarian law and related legal issues. The delegation also undertook a survey whereby detailed information was gathered and analysed on the level of humanitarian law teaching in the region's universities and other post-secondary education centres.

The regional delegation organized numerous activities in the region to mark the 50th anniversary of the Geneva Conventions, and military personnel took part in most of them. In December, the regional delegate attended a special session held by the Bolivian Supreme Court to mark the 50th anniversary. In his statement, the regional delegate stressed the special responsibility of national and international courts in implementing humanitarian law.

The regional delegation also produced a travelling photo exhibition, "Man in a War-torn World", which was displayed in several countries in the region.

The ICRC continued to support the region's National Societies, notably in Chile and Paraguay, where activities were restructured to cope more effectively with demands for assistance from vulnerable groups. It worked in cooperation with the Chilean Red Cross on a youth education project regarding humanitarian law. In Bolivia and Argentina, cooperation activities carried out with the National Societies were centred on the promotion of basic Red Cross principles and humanitarian law.

IN 1999 THE ICRC:



- visited 57 and 22 security detainees respectively in Chile and Bolivia, providing assistance where necessary;
- financed family visits for detainees in Bolivia and Chile and enabled the detainees to stay in touch with their families via Red Cross messages;



- expanded dissemination activities throughout the region with the support of the National Societies, focusing on the armed forces, academic institutions, youth groups and remote communities; the press and media were involved in this programme and encouraged to broaden their coverage of Red Cross activities;
- increased the number of its instructors' training courses, seminars and lectures for members of the armed forces;
- advised universities in the region on the incorporation of humanitarian law into their curricula;
- continued to extend the scope of the Spanish-language ICRC Web site based in Buenos Aires, making the visual presentation more attractive and putting a greater number of publications on-line;
- organized and partially financed the first national training seminar in Canelo de Nós, Chile, for approximately 300 relief workers.

GUATEMALA CITY

Regional delegation

(Belize, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Nicaragua, Panama, Suriname and other countries in the Caribbean)

*promoting acceptance
of humanitarian treaties*

*bringing national legislation
in line with humanitarian law*

ICRC mission in Haiti

In a part of the world that has had to bear its share of conflict, 1999 saw the continuation of a period of relative stability. Mid-year the majority of voters in Guatemala rejected proposals for constitutional reform, an action that could have a negative effect on the peace process. Voters in Guatemala and Panama elected new presidents, and Panama officially took over management of the Panama Canal at the end of the year. In Haiti, the severe internal and institutional crisis persisted, provoking strong public reaction and arrests by the authorities.

In this context, the ICRC focused on promoting humanitarian law and humanitarian diplomacy in the region. It was able to expand its activities in the English-speaking Caribbean after it opened a sub-delegation halfway through the year in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago. On the occasion of the 27th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent in Geneva,³ the regional delegate took the opportunity to hold talks with government representatives and high-level members of National Societies from all countries in the region on issues of humanitarian concern.

The ICRC used its regular contacts with governments of the region to promote the ratification of humanitarian law treaties. As a result, Panama officially recognized the competence of the International Fact-Finding Commission, Nicaragua became party to the Protocols additional to the 1949 Geneva Conventions, and Cuba ratified Additional Protocol II. Trinidad and Tobago became the first country in Latin America and the Caribbean to ratify the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court.

In May a plan of action was prepared with the members of the Human Rights Commission of the Central American Parliament to familiarize the region's parliamentarians with humanitarian law.

The government of the Dominican Republic officially inaugurated its national Committee for the Implementation of Humanitarian Law in June. The Committee's first seminar, held in December, was attended by high-ranking government officials and representatives of the National Society. The national committees of El Salvador and Nicaragua continued to be active in 1999 and drew up plans of action for 2000.

Tension mounted during the year on the Panamanian border with Colombia. In mid-November, an armed group attacked the village of La Bonda, causing 35 of its inhabitants to seek refuge in Puerto Olbadia where they were assisted by the Panamanian Red Cross. A local branch of the National Society was set up at El Real with the financial support of the Norwegian Red Cross, so that immediate assistance could be on hand if required to assist displaced people and local communities suffering from the spillover effects of the conflict in Colombia.

The ICRC continued to visit detainees in Haiti's prisons. At the request of the Haitian prison authorities, the ICRC chaired monthly meetings of medical staff working in the prisons. These meetings gave the participants the opportunity to share professional information and experience, collect statistics and receive training. The ICRC supplied detention centres with medicines, medical material, and equipment for improving hygiene standards, and provided funds for the purchase of fresh and general foodstuffs for detainees. The relevant authorities in Port-au-Prince examined how to speed up the exceedingly long court procedures and enforce compliance with judges' orders to release prisoners. As a result, five security detainees who had been registered by the ICRC were freed.

³ See pp. 376-377.

*addressing humanitarian issues
in Guatemala*

*courses for armed
and police forces*

*spreading knowledge
among the general public*

In February the "Comisión para el esclarecimiento histórico"* presented its report to the government and to the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity. It concluded that most of the violations committed against the population had been perpetrated by the army.

The Guatemalan armed forces finalized their new military doctrine, which contains references to international humanitarian law and human rights. The ICRC had recommended that humanitarian law be brought to the fore in the text so as to encourage its proper application by the armed forces.

In Guatemala, the first course on the law of armed conflict for air force instructors was held in August. Most of the countries in the region and the United States attended as either participants or observers.

The delegation conducted a course on the law of armed conflict at the School of the Americas in Georgia, United States. Half of the 55 instructors who participated came from Latin American countries.

In October, the delegation organized the first regional course on human rights and international humanitarian law for directors of police academies and heads of instruction in police forces in Central America and the Spanish-speaking Caribbean. The feedback from the participants was positive and concrete. The director of the police academy in Guatemala announced that teaching on human rights and humanitarian law would be incorporated into the academy's curriculum. The head of instruction at the Costa Rican police academy planned to run a national course on the same issues. Discussions were held with the Costa Rican authorities on plans to host a second regional course in 2000.

In each country in the region the law of armed conflict was the theme of numerous training programmes for the armed forces. In Nicaragua, ICRC delegates were present as observers in May when the armed forces ran their first independent training course on the subject for instructors, and members of Costa Rica's public security forces attended ICRC-organized training courses on the same topic. The ICRC organized the first regional course on the law of armed conflict for instructors of defence forces in Belize, Guyana and other countries in the English-speaking Caribbean, with the participation of training officers from seven countries in the region. Senior army officers representing Costa Rica, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and El Salvador, responsible for incorporating the law of armed conflict into training courses for armed and security forces, attended the ICRC-organized yearly meeting on this subject held in El Salvador in September.

The delegation intensified its efforts in Guatemala to establish contact with the general public with the aim of increasing awareness of humanitarian law and the ICRC mandate. In the spirit of the Maya project,⁴ it organized radio broadcasts in Spanish and Mayan, exhibitions, newspaper articles, plays, workshops and seminars. The 50th anniversary of the 1949 Geneva Conventions presented an excellent opportunity for lectures, concerts and promotion by the media of humanitarian issues. The "People on War" mobile exhibition was presented in El Salvador, Nicaragua and Panama, attracting large audiences.

* Guatemalan Truth Commission

⁴ See the ICRC's 1998 Annual Report, p. 153.

*reaching the young
in schools and universities*

*keeping journalists
and the authorities informed*

*cooperation
with National Societies*

At the end of the year, the delegation launched the first issue of its magazine, "Región", the aim of which was to spread awareness of ICRC activities among civil society and the general public.

The ICRC stepped up its efforts to spread the message of humanitarian law to young people in the region by giving courses to students and professors, offering guidance on how to include instruction on humanitarian law in curricula, and distributing publications.

In October a forum was held in Costa Rica to promote humanitarian law in academic circles. It was attended by participants from the "Escuela Libre de Derechos Humanos" and from the civil service. A proposal to make lessons on the Red Cross a part of basic education was presented to the Ministries of Education of Costa Rica and the Dominican Republic. School brigades made up of specialized youth dissemination officers gave instruction on basic Red Cross knowledge in schools. The ICRC organized conferences on the Ottawa treaty and humanitarian law at national universities in Nicaragua, Costa Rica and Panama for more than 500 participants.

The first national seminar on women and armed conflict took place at El Salvador University in September and was attended by 30 university professors.

In Honduras and Nicaragua, ICRC seminars and workshops were held in August and September for media personnel and students of communication on the role of the media in wartime and the principles of humanitarian law. In December, the third seminar for journalists took place at the International Press Centre in Havana, Cuba, on the protection of children during wartime and in disasters.

Dissemination activities focusing on the authorities were extended. In Costa Rica, the regional delegation ran a seminar on humanitarian law for officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, members of the government and students from the regional diplomatic school. In Nicaragua, a seminar was held in November for 30 members of the National Assembly on national repression of violations of humanitarian law. The new Penal Code will take into account points concerning violations which were discussed during the seminar.

In all cooperation activities throughout the region, the ICRC stressed the importance of dissemination and training courses. Together with the Nicaraguan Red Cross, the ICRC participated in the first regional meeting on mine clearance organized in Central America by the OAS. It cooperated with the Cuban National Society in promoting the inclusion of humanitarian law in post-secondary education. The ICRC continued to support the Cuban Red Cross International Humanitarian Law Study Centre. Also in cooperation with the Cuban Red Cross and with CSUCA,* the ICRC organized the first regional course on humanitarian law for university teachers. The course, held at the end of the year in Havana, was attended by 30 professors and officials from the region's academic institutions.

The ICRC gave support to the National Societies of the Dominican Republic and Nicaragua in restructuring their dissemination and communication departments and in building up networks of active disseminators. It also gave courses to youth disseminators.

* CSUCA: "Consejo superior universitario centroamericano" (Central American Superior University Council)

IN 1999 THE ICRC:



- visited 17 detainees held in Grenada since the armed intervention of 1983 and coming under the ICRC mandate;
- continued to monitor the conditions of detention of 3,687 prisoners in Haiti, and followed up on the cases of 17 individual security detainees;
- gave financial support to Haiti's two most populated prisons to enable them to provide detainees with adequate rations of fresh foodstuffs;
- distributed recreational items and toiletries to 30 hospitalized detainees in the National Penitentiary in Port-au-Prince and to 137 women and children in Fort National prison, and provided education material to the latter;
- made regular visits to and monitored the conditions of 25 detainees requiring medical attention in Haiti;
- financed and ensured supervision of the construction of bathroom facilities, connections to drinking water pipelines, repairs to existing water and sewage systems and the installation of new systems in prisons in Hinche, Aquin and Port-de-Paix, Haiti;
- in October and December visited 5 security detainees held in Panama's El Renacer Rehabilitation Centre since the armed intervention of the United States in 1989;



- supported the National Societies of the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Panama, Costa Rica, Cuba and Guatemala in training 133 dissemination officers specializing in dissemination for young people;
- together with region's National Societies, organized courses and workshops on humanitarian law;
- following a deterioration in the situation on Panama's border with Colombia, cooperated with the Panamanian Red Cross to respond more efficiently should violence break out;



- supported the military authorities in Nicaragua in training an additional 25 instructors on the law of armed conflict, forming a core unit of 68 instructors;
- conducted a course on the law of armed conflict for 55 instructors at the School of the Americas, United States;
- supervised training courses on humanitarian law and human rights carried out in Jamaica by ICRC-trained regional police instructors for police officers and instructors from 12 Caribbean countries; these training courses were the result of an agreement between the ICRC and the Jamaican Ministry of National Security;
- gave national courses on humanitarian law for 135 university professors from various faculties in El Salvador, Costa Rica, Guatemala and Nicaragua;
- organized a forum in Costa Rica for 35 professors from the "Escuela Libre de Derechos Humanos" and civil servants on the promotion of humanitarian law in academic circles;
- gave courses on humanitarian law at the El Salvador University, the School of International Relations in Panama and at two universities in Guatemala to a total of 115 students;
- supported the National Societies of the Dominican Republic and Costa Rica in providing their dissemination officers with special training courses focusing on dissemination for young people for the formation of school brigades;
- organized the fifth regional workshop on dissemination and communication in Trinidad and Tobago for the National Societies of CARICOM* member countries;
- ran a seminar in December for journalists at the International Press Centre in Havana, Cuba, on the protection of children during wartime and in disasters;
- ran seminars in Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica and Panama on humanitarian law and the role of the media in wartime for over 200 journalists and communication students;
- organized a seminar in Guatemala on humanitarian law and the Mayan legal system and presented plays on the same theme for some 6,800 persons;
- participated in the fifth International Congress on Disasters in Cuba, presenting the ICRC mandate in general;
- promoted the Jean Pictet international humanitarian law competition throughout the region;



- continued to support the Nicaraguan Red Cross and its ambulances and first-aid teams in their work with the Nicaraguan army's mine-detection and mine-clearance personnel in the field.

* CARICOM: Caribbean Community

EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA



ICRC/P. Grabhorn

*Red Cross messages help maintain the lifeline of communication.
Receiving news from loved ones, in this case from a daughter across the front line, can relieve mental anguish and restore hope.*

EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA

Western and Central Europe and the Balkans

ICRC delegations:

Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

ICRC regional delegation:

Budapest

Eastern Europe

ICRC regional delegations:

Kyiv, Moscow

The Caucasus

ICRC delegations:

Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia

North America

ICRC regional delegation:

Washington

Staff

ICRC expatriates¹: 167

National Societies¹: 85

Local employees²: 1,572

Total expenditure: Sfr 85,524,843.88

Expenditure breakdown

Protection: 6,127,109.43

Assistance: 43,963,719.79

Preventive action: 14,930,484.26

Cooperation

with National Societies: 6,035,858.41

Overheads: 4,412,343.00

General: 10,055,328.99



⊕ ICRC Headquarters ⊕ ICRC regional delegation ⊕ ICRC delegation

ICRC / AR 12 99

¹ Average figures calculated on an annual basis.

² Under ICRC contract, as at December 1999.

Throughout the period under review, vast regions of Eastern Europe and the Caucasus again suffered the effects of intermittent fighting or outright war, and the Balkans in particular continued to be plagued by a dispiriting spiral of violence and ethnically motivated attacks.

Peace talks convened at Rambouillet, France, in February failed to reconcile the Serbian authorities with the leaders of the Kosovo Liberation Army, and on 23 March, history hung in the balance when the NATO Secretary General authorized the launching of air strikes against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, with the declared aim of putting an end to ethnic violence in Kosovo. As controversy raged over the legitimacy of NATO's "obligation to intervene" in the affairs of a sovereign State, the ICRC notified NATO's member countries and the Yugoslav leadership that the 1949 Geneva Conventions were fully applicable in this unprecedented situation and reminded them of their obligations thereunder. More than half a million Kosovo Albanians crossed the border into Albania and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. As a humanitarian crisis of staggering proportions unfolded, the ICRC and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies decided to adopt an integrated, regional approach so as to better mobilize resources, both human and material, from within the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and allocate them in the most efficient way possible. This approach allowed delegates to provide relief and medical support for the refugees who arrived in the neighbouring regions, to restore contact with their relatives left behind in Kosovo, and to come to the aid of people affected by the NATO bombing raids in Yugoslavia. Throughout the entire conflict, the ICRC kept its expatriate staff stationed in Belgrade. Delegates were thus able to assist with impartiality all civilians in need, whether in Albania, Macedonia, Montenegro or Serbia proper.

On 29 March, security constraints in the region forced the ICRC to withdraw its staff from Kosovo. In the midst of the war, the ICRC's President travelled to Belgrade and conveyed the organization's concerns with regard to the security of the civilian population. He was able to negotiate the ICRC's return to Pristina, and operations resumed there on 24 May, three weeks before the end of the conflict and the deployment of the international security force KFOR.

In the immediate aftermath of the conflict, the ICRC dealt with the most pressing needs, in particular with tracing missing persons. The fate of ethnic Albanian detainees transferred out of Kosovo when the hostilities ended was also extremely disquieting. The ICRC negotiated with the Serbian Ministry of Justice in July to obtain access to those detainees, and was subsequently allowed to visit some 2,000 of them and restore contact between them and their relatives in Kosovo.

In a region where tolerance dissipates quickly unless actively husbanded, the massive return of refugees to Kosovo brought more inter-ethnic violence. Another source of great concern for the ICRC was the spate of revenge attacks targeting Kosovo Serbs and members of the Roma (gypsy) and other communities.

Efforts continued on the part of the international community to find lasting solutions to the social and economic problems in the Balkans. To this end, a summit held in Sarajevo launched a Stability Pact designed to foster unity and rebuild the shattered economies of the Balkan countries. Signatories to the Pact included the Foreign Ministers of eight countries in the region - Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Bulgaria,

Croatia, Hungary, Romania, Slovenia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. In a speech given at the summit, the ICRC's President, while welcoming the initiative, voiced concern at the plight of tens of thousands of families in Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, including Kosovo, who were still without news of relatives who had disappeared during the fighting. The Red Cross remained committed to acting on behalf of the families for as long as the problem persisted, and urged the authorities in all the countries concerned to make every effort to respond to their need for information.

Peace in the Caucasus remained elusive, as clashes between Russian federal forces and armed insurgents resulted in a loss of lives on all sides, widespread destruction in the Chechen capital, Grozny, and fears that a spillover of violence might lead to instability in other countries in the region, particularly Georgia. Until October, the ICRC continued its assistance programme in Chechnya, with the support of the Chechen branch of the Russian Red Cross. Throughout the year, the relief operation in the northern Caucasus was directed by a team of expatriate staff based in Nalchik (Kabardino-Balkaria), and aided by the ICRC regional delegation in Moscow. It was expanded when hostilities resumed, first in Dagestan then in Chechnya, and additional support was provided by medical, relief, water and sanitation and logistics experts from ICRC headquarters in Geneva. The ICRC, together with its partners in the Movement, provided tens of thousands of people in the region with basic necessities, in coordination with the authorities and various humanitarian agencies. Other programmes, conducted mainly in neighbouring Ingushetia, included assistance for medical facilities treating the displaced and the wounded, and water-supply and sanitation projects.

Throughout the months of conflict, the ICRC reminded the authorities concerned of their obligation to spare civilians and their property during military operations and to refrain from using the threat of violence. It engaged in a direct dialogue with the Russian authorities regarding respect for humanitarian law and access to detainees, and also expressed its concerns to the Chechen leaders, through contacts with their representatives in Baku and Tbilisi.

The regional delegation in Kyiv continued its dissemination activities in the countries that it covered. Delegates gave numerous seminars and training courses on the law of war to the armed forces, and provided advice and technical support for the incorporation of international humanitarian law into national legislation.

As in the previous year, the ICRC pursued its efforts to protect and assist detainees and civilians still affected by unresolved conflicts in the southern Caucasus. Discussions continued with the parties involved in the Karabakh conflict regarding the fate of people captured or not yet accounted for. As tuberculosis continued to exact a heavy toll among the prison population, the ICRC maintained its support for existing eradication programmes. Treatment of the disease was particularly successful in Georgia, where the government implemented comprehensive control measures and gave the ICRC access to all prisons.

WESTERN AND CENTRAL EUROPE AND THE BALKANS

WESTERN EUROPE

*ICRC President travels
to promote humanitarian law*

During the year under review, the ICRC's President and other representatives of the institution held numerous meetings with National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and government officials in preparation for the 27th International Conference³ of the Red Cross and Red Crescent. The Conference brought together the States party to the Geneva Conventions and the various components of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.

The ICRC's President visited various countries throughout the year to increase awareness of the problems facing the institution and to enhance knowledge of its mandate and work. His missions took him to the Holy See, Iceland, Italy, Lichtenstein, Monaco, Norway, Portugal and Sweden where he endeavoured to mobilize resources for humanitarian operations and participated in events to promote humanitarian law. He also travelled to Berlin, where he delivered an introductory address at the 102nd Inter-Parliamentary Conference and later met with government officials, including the President and the Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany. In April, the President had meetings in Brussels with the Belgian Minister of Foreign Affairs and with the President of the Belgian Red Cross Society and participated in a European Commission meeting on the crisis in the Balkans. On a return visit in October, he met with the European Union's Development and Humanitarian Aid Commissioner. The President paid an official visit to Finland in August, which at the time held the presidency of the European Union. Discussions with the Finnish President, the Prime Minister and the Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Defence focused on the ICRC's relations with the European Union. The President also travelled to London in October, where he met with government officials and representatives of the Jewish community. In Vienna, the President addressed the Permanent Council of the OSCE,* stressing the need to strengthen links between the two organizations. At the end of the year, he had talks with the Secretary General of NATO and later addressed the North Atlantic Council, the first time that an ICRC President was invited to do so. In his speech, the President placed particular emphasis on the application of the rules of international humanitarian law in situations of armed conflict.

The ICRC remained in close contact with other organizations, as well. At a meeting with UNICEF senior representatives held in Sainte-Croix, Switzerland, the UNICEF delegation was headed by its Executive Director, while the ICRC team included the Director of Operations and the Deputy Director of Law and Communication. The meeting was chaired by the ICRC President, and the agenda covered a wide range of institutional and operational issues. At the tripartite meeting of the Council of Europe, the OSCE and the UN, held in Strasbourg in February, the ICRC was represented by the Head of Operations for Western Europe. Discussions focused primarily on the rapidly deteriorating situation in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, particularly in Kosovo. At the invitation of NATO's Supreme Allied Commander, a delegate from the ICRC International Organizations Division attended, as an observer, a week-long meeting which focused on the links between politics, economics and the military. The exercise underscored the importance of close coordination between all those concerned, including humanitarian organizations, in post-conflict situations. The annual UNHCR/ICRC meeting, held in Lugano in May, dealt with operating principles in large-scale humanitarian crises, and in particular with events in Kosovo and the southern

³ See pp. 375-377.

* OSCE: Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe

WESTERN AND CENTRAL EUROPE AND THE BALKANS

*close contacts with
international organizations*

*operational activities
in Northern Ireland*

offices in Western Europe

Balkans. The meeting was opened by the President of the ICRC, which was also represented by the Delegate General for Europe.

At the annual meeting of the International Institute of Humanitarian Law in San Remo, the ICRC was represented by the Director for International Law and Communication. Delegates also participated in meetings of the Council of Europe, and the ICRC had observer status at the OSCE summit in Istanbul in November. In May, the ICRC President gave the opening address at the third annual Humanitarian Forum in Wolfsberg, Switzerland, which discussed the protection of victims of armed conflicts.⁴

Throughout the year, the ICRC President, Vice-Presidents, Committee members and representatives received Heads of State, Ministers and senior officials from other organizations. Visitors to ICRC headquarters this year included the American Deputy Secretary of State, the President of Portugal, a delegation from Luxembourg, whose leader reiterated her country's support for the ICRC, and the President and Secretary General of the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture.

The head of the Task Force for Western Europe carried out missions to Dublin, Belfast and London, where she met with National Society representatives. The ICRC seconded a delegate to the British Red Cross to help set up a joint Irish Red Cross/British Red Cross dissemination project, designed to strengthen knowledge of the Movement and its principles and of the ICRC's mandate in Northern Ireland and in the border counties of the Republic of Ireland. An ICRC doctor and two delegates travelled to the Maze and Maghaberry prisons in Northern Ireland to visit detainees held in connection with the events that had occurred prior to the Good Friday agreement.

In 1999, the ICRC set up a permanent office in Belgium whose goal is to explain the organization's policy to institutions based in Brussels, particularly with regard to issues linked to humanitarian law. In France, the Paris office focused on establishing close links with senior government officials, the media and major French NGOs, and took part in emergency meetings of the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs during the Balkans crisis.

As in the past, the ICRC remained in close contact with the Swiss Federal authorities in Bern. Two Federal Councillors made a courtesy visit to ICRC headquarters, and in June the President went to Bern, where he held talks with the Federal authorities, in particular the head of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs.

⁴ See pp. 39 and 405.

ALBANIA

PROTECTION

2,838,812

ASSISTANCE

6,900,533

PREVENTIVE ACTION

337,528

COOPERATION WITH THE NATIONAL SOCIETY

75,221

OVERHEADS

1,037,853

GENERAL

706,675

TOTAL EXPENDITURE Sfr 11,896,621



ICRC delegation

ICRC office

The year under review proved to be a tumultuous one for Albania. From mid-March onwards, the country found itself embroiled in the chaos brought about by the Kosovo conflict, with hundreds of thousands of refugees streaming into the northern border region of Kukes. In an impressive show of solidarity, Albania welcomed nearly half a million Kosovar refugees in all. Most were taken in by host families, while the remainder found accommodation in camps and collective shelters. The adoption of United Nations Security Council resolution 1244 on 10 June 1999 subsequently put an end to the conflicts between Yugoslav armed and security forces and the KLA,* and between NATO and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. Although the majority of Kosovo Albanians returned home, several thousand refugees who knew that their homes had been destroyed or were situated in insecure areas elected to remain in Albania over the harsh winter months.

Although a plethora of international aid organizations established their headquarters in Tirana during the crisis, long-term commitments to help the country towards economic recovery failed to materialize. The transition from a centrally

* KLA: Kosovo Liberation Army

*integrated Red Cross/
Red Crescent operation*

*using modern technology
to restore family links*

strain on local medical facilities

planned to a free-market economy floundered badly, while the repercussions of the Kosovo imbroglia further drained the public purse. Unemployment levels ran high throughout the year, and many Albanians continued to depend on remittances from relatives abroad. Although the number of incidents of unrest declined, crime was cause for serious concern, largely because of the ready availability of firearms. Particularly in the north-eastern regions of the country, mines and unexploded ordnance stymied economic development and posed a threat to the local population.

Given the magnitude of the Kosovo conflict, the ICRC and the Federation joined forces in an integrated approach to ensure a coherent and rapid response to the crisis. This was the first time that such a large-scale operation had been run jointly, with the Federation assuming the role of lead agency in Albania. Both the ICRC and the Federation cooperated closely throughout the crisis with the Albanian Red Cross, which enabled the ICRC in particular to undertake its activities to assist the victims of the conflict with minimal security risks. Also in conjunction with the Albanian Red Cross, the ICRC spearheaded a major tracing operation to restore family links.

During the crisis, the bulk of the ICRC delegation's work consisted in tracing activities. Delegates were despatched to various locations throughout the country, where they established a network of satellite phones that allowed refugees to inform their relatives, primarily in Europe and North America, of their safe arrival in Albania. By the end of June, tens of thousands of people had used this means of communication. In tandem with this operation and at their request, the names of refugees were broadcast on Radio Tirana and on major international radio networks, including the BBC, Voice of America, Deutsche Welle and Radio France Internationale. With the help of the American Red Cross, a Web site was launched to help restore family links; it proved to be effective and demonstrated the usefulness of electronic media in the humanitarian sphere. Despite this, thousands of persons remained unable to contact their relatives, and the ICRC collected hundreds of tracing requests from the most vulnerable.

Throughout the year, delegates continued to provide medical assistance in the form of surgical supplies and essential medicines for district hospitals in Albania's main towns, where the influx of refugees taken in by host families put a considerable strain on local health facilities. They donated medicines to several health centres, and in mid-April, at the height of the conflict, provided supplies for a medical post in northern Albania. They successfully negotiated with KLA leaders and with the Albanian authorities for the evacuation by helicopter of the war-wounded from the Bajram Curri and Tropoje districts to the Central Military Hospital in Tirana.

From April onwards, the ICRC's four relief delegates - one in the capital and three in Kukes - provided logistics support for the integrated Red Cross/Red Crescent relief operation. Ready-to-eat meals, high-protein biscuits and non-food items were distributed to the refugees by the Albanian Red Cross, with support from both the Federation and the ICRC. Initial supplies were for 150,000 refugees, but by mid-June this figure had been revised upwards to 344,735 people. Individual parcels and wheat flour were regularly handed out to the refugees, and additional food items were given to their host families.

The widespread presence of landmines, coupled with the rush of refugees returning to their homes in Kosovo after the conflict, prompted the ICRC to print several

WESTERN AND CENTRAL EUROPE AND THE BALKANS ALBANIA

*the menace of cluster bombs
and landmines*

National Society support

thousand leaflets on mine awareness. In April, the ICRC and the demining unit of the Albanian government together produced and distributed a poster and leaflets on the threat posed by cluster bombs in the northern part of the country. Mine-awareness leaflets were translated and handed out by Albanian Red Cross volunteers and by ICRC tracing delegates, mainly in Kukes and from other Red Cross branches across the country during food distributions in June and July.

From the start of the crisis, National Societies from around the world were unstinting in their support of the Movement's efforts on behalf of the refugees. The Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies of Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, the Netherlands, Saudi Arabia, Spain, Turkey, and the United Arab Emirates deployed first-aid volunteers, provided tents and relief items for collective centres and donated stocks of emergency medical supplies for treatment of the war-wounded.

IN 1999 THE ICRC:



- visited 17 people held for security reasons in connection with past internal unrest;



- set up a satellite telephone network enabling over 37,000 refugees from Kosovo to communicate with their families, and facilitated the broadcast of more than 22,000 names of refugees on radio;
- registered 299 children separated from their parents and 470 vulnerable people (the elderly, disabled, single women with children);
- issued 891 travel documents and helped people in need to contact the relevant embassies so that they could join family members in third countries;



- as part of the Red Cross/Red Crescent integrated and regional strategy in the Balkans, provided logistics support for the transport of 14,500 tonnes of food and other supplies to 6 regional distribution centres;



- airlifted 71 wounded people to hospital in Tirana;



- delivered over 20 tonnes of water purification chemicals for eight Albanian water boards;



- printed and distributed 500 posters and 5,000 leaflets on cluster bombs;
- printed 102,000 mine-awareness leaflets for adults, of which 96,000 were distributed;
- printed 102,000 mine-awareness leaflets specially designed for children, of which 98,000 were distributed.

BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA

PROTECTION

2,911,140

ASSISTANCE

14,809,900

PREVENTIVE ACTION

2,583,096

COOPERATION WITH THE NATIONAL SOCIETY

2,174,892

OVERHEADS

1,403,237

GENERAL

1,564,410

TOTAL EXPENDITURE Sfr 25,446,675



ICRC delegation ICRC sub-delegation/office Inter-Entity Boundary Line

Four years after the General Framework Agreement for Peace ended the war in Bosnia-Herzegovina, political and economic gains in the region have remained modest. The conflict in Kosovo spilled beyond the borders of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia as Bosnia-Herzegovina struggled to absorb thousands of refugees from the province and from Serbia proper. The arrival of the refugees put a damper on the tenuous efforts by State administrators to lay the foundations of a peaceful civil society and caused the region to slide deeper into economic insolvency. Despite injections of financial aid from the international community, the country's underfunded social safety net was unable to cope with the problems posed by the new arrivals. Although both the country's entities - the Federation of Bosnia-Herzegovina and Republika Srpska - were affected by events in Kosovo, the latter's economy was hit harder, since close economic ties with the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia meant that out of a workforce of 250,000 people, an estimated 50,000 lost their jobs after the NATO bombings began. The psychological cost of the conflict was incalculable, particularly in Republika Srpska where many people had relatives in Serbia.

one million still displaced

international support

the search for the missing continues

database for the missing

a Web site for family reunifications

According to 1999 estimates, roughly one million displaced people and refugees, one in every four Bosnians, remained reluctant to return to their homes, a sobering statistic that reflected a lack of confidence in the country's future. As one of several countervailing measures, in October the new High Representative* of the United Nations imposed a set of property laws designed to involve local politicians in facilitating the return of refugees and displaced people.

The divide between Bosnian Serbs, Croats and Muslims remained very much in evidence, as was demonstrated by the fact that the electorate cast its votes along ethnic lines. Over 30,000 members of the NATO-led Stabilization Force (SFOR) were still needed to keep the peace between the three communities. Organized crime was perceived by ordinary citizens to be on the rise, and prominent war criminals indicted by the ICTY* were not brought to justice, two factors which severely eroded confidence in the judiciary. Steps were taken in the right direction, however, when the Madrid Peace and Implementation Conference decided on a thorough overhaul of the country's judiciary and on the adoption in both the country's entities of codes of ethics.

The international community continued to give tangible support to efforts towards a lasting peace and long-term economic growth in Bosnia-Herzegovina. At the Fifth Donor Conference for Bosnia-Herzegovina, held in Brussels in May, donors pledged a staggering US\$ 1.05 billion for economic reform and reconstruction in the country, and promised to help shoulder the additional financial burden engendered by the arrival of people fleeing the Kosovo conflict. Despite the faltering economy, the authorities in turn did succeed in establishing a single currency.

Throughout 1999, the ICRC continued to focus primarily on the families of the missing, since the fate of over 17,479 persons who disappeared during the war had yet to be clarified. The majority of the missing were adult men, and as long as they remained unaccounted for, their families continued to live in a psychological and legal limbo, unable to plan for the future and in a difficult position to claim social benefits.

Through the joint exhumation process carried out in both entities under the auspices of the High Representative, mortal remains continued to be exhumed and identified by the families. Poor weather conditions forced forensic teams to end exhumations in November. During the year, families were kept abreast of any developments in the search for their missing relatives and tremendous efforts were made to provide them with adequate support, advice and compensation.

The ICRC continued to press for a single permanent national structure which would better serve the long-term needs of the families of the missing. To this end, a database was set up containing all the facts pertaining to persons reported dead or missing during the Bosnia-Herzegovina conflict.

Activities were carried out in order to re-establish contact between people who had been separated as a result of the conflict in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. A Web site,⁵ designed to help locate relatives and exchange messages, was made available to refugees in ICRC offices in Sarajevo, Bihac, Bijeljina and Banja Luka.

* High Representative: the official appointed to oversee implementation of the civilian aspects of the Dayton Agreement

* ICTY: International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia

⁵ See p. 19.

*residents and refugees
in need of assistance*

"healthy communities" programme

*promoting knowledge
of humanitarian law among
armed and security forces*

"People on War"

Delegates were also involved in reuniting families in the Balkans and throughout Europe, in cooperation with other ICRC delegations and local Red Cross branches.

During the period under review, the ICRC worked closely with the local Red Cross in both entities, the Federation and other organizations to meet the most pressing humanitarian needs. Food parcels and blankets were provided for the refugees from the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, monthly rations were supplied to vulnerable elderly people, heating materials were distributed to households throughout the country in winter, and seed potatoes and fertilizer were given to farming families. Wherever possible, produce was purchased on the domestic market, thus giving a much-needed boost to the local economy and avoiding delays due to customs and transport procedures.

The ICRC strengthened its support for health service reforms, particularly in primary health care. In partnership with local Red Cross branches, the "healthy communities" programme was expanded during the year, with eight pilot projects set up in four municipalities. Participants in the projects assessed local needs and put forward tangible proposals designed to improve health and other services in the region. Funding for the projects was provided by the ICRC and community and municipal grants, while several international NGOs contributed their technical expertise. By year's end, the principal community projects had drawn to a close.

An essential part of the ongoing reforms in the health sector was the ICRC's peer group approach in its work with health professionals. Peer groups of doctors were established in eight health centres (four in each entity). Task groups were then set up to promote activities that included the forming of a peer group network, ongoing medical training, management practices, the setting of standards, promoting good health, and informing the public about the concept of family medicine.

Nurses represented another vital link in the public health care programme. During the year, the ICRC worked with nurses throughout the country to translate, edit, and distribute WHO's* LEMON (Learning Materials on Nursing) texts, which introduce a modern concept of nursing. Following consultations with the health authorities and other international organizations,⁶ the ICRC, after many years of assistance to hospitals and blood transfusion centres, ended its involvement in the surgical supplies programme.

The army of the Bosnian Federation (AFBiH) and the Bosnian Serb army (VRS) had scant knowledge of the law of armed conflict and human rights law and the police forces of both entities were similarly unfamiliar with these concepts. As in the past, the ICRC therefore held courses, instructors' workshops and seminars on the law of armed conflict for selected units of each entity's armed forces. In November, it organized a seminar on the law of armed conflict in Sarajevo for 40 senior army officers of both entities. The event marked the first time since the end of the war that high-level officers had participated in a seminar of this nature. The ICRC encouraged both sets of police forces to incorporate the teaching of universal humanitarian principles and the law of armed conflict into the curricula of police academies.

Bosnia-Herzegovina was the first of over a dozen countries worldwide to participate in the ICRC "People on War" project⁷ designed to help increase understanding

* WHO: World Health Organization

⁶ See the ICRC's 1998 Annual Report, p. 206.

⁷ See pp. 348-350.

threat of landmines remains

*steps towards forming
one National Society*

of and respect for the rules that protect victims of war. The report on Bosnia-Herzegovina was also the first to be made public, and was formally handed over to the country's Foreign Minister at the end of the year.

Landmines and other unexploded ordnance continued to litter the landscape of Bosnia-Herzegovina, posing a threat to the lives of the region's inhabitants and to newly arrived refugees. The ICRC thus maintained its support for a community-based mine-awareness programme involving local Red Cross staff and volunteers. Mine-awareness sessions were conducted for the most vulnerable groups, including agricultural workers, local residents and refugees from the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

In partnership with other international organizations, and in particular with the Red Cross in Bosnia-Herzegovina, the ICRC has long supported the efforts in both entities to restructure their National Societies in the aftermath of the war. It worked with the Federation towards the establishment and recognition of a single National Society for Bosnia-Herzegovina, since one unified structure would be better equipped to respond to the immediate needs of the most vulnerable and in the long term would assume responsibility for relief and tracing programmes. The Red Cross branches in the two entities were virtually the only functioning social institutions in the country. The ICRC thus encouraged authorities at both entity and State levels to support the Red Cross by easing the legal requirements for the formation of one National Society.

IN 1999 THE ICRC:



- visited 25 detainees charged with war crimes in seven places of detention;
- financed visits to detainees held by the ICTY in The Hague for relatives who did not have the means to pay their own way;



- of a total of 20,308 tracing requests collected since the beginning of the conflict, closed 2,001 files concerning people previously unaccounted for, including the cases of 279 people found alive;
- exchanged 181 Red Cross messages between refugees from Kosovo and their families;



- provided 485 tonnes of fuel, 2,520 tonnes of coal and 27,940 m³ of firewood to over 10,380 households, four collective centres and 12 institutions across the country;
- supplied monthly food parcels to 14,000 beneficiaries of the Red Cross home care programme;



- delivered surgical and medical supplies to 25 hospitals, 23 blood transfusion centres and four other health facilities;



- under a project delegated to the Swedish Red Cross, carried out intensive training programmes in four public health institutes, provided field equipment for the identification of water sources, gave training sessions on the use of this equipment to 20 teams from all 13 public health institutes in the country, and donated ad hoc supplies of material for water quality control;
- under the water-to-villages programme, in conjunction with the local Red Cross oversaw 25 water projects in the Federation of Bosnia-Herzegovina and 15 in the Republika Srpska;



- interviewed 1,800 people on the subject of conflict for the "People on War" project;
- gave 10 courses on the law of armed conflict for 268 officers of the armed forces of both entities and 33 presentations of ICRC activities and courses on the law of armed conflict to 1,000 members of NATO and SFOR;



- organized over 1,470 presentations for some 36,350 people, as part of its mine-awareness programme involving 130 community instructors.

CROATIA



ICRC delegation
 ICRC sub-delegation/office
 Eastern Slavonia, Baranja & Western Sirmium

The winds of change swept across the Croatian political landscape in 1999. The death in December of President Franjo Tudjman, founder of the ruling Croatian Democratic Union (HDZ), signalled the end of a chapter in Croatian politics. President Tudjman had led his country to independence and enjoyed widespread popular support, particularly in rural areas. After nine years of rule, he left a mixed legacy, however, since the country's economy remained in the doldrums and the transition to a free-market democracy was still incomplete. Nonetheless, despite the conflict in Kosovo, which had repercussions on all the Balkan countries, the security situation remained relatively stable, and the country stayed on course towards integration with the rest of Europe.

Two major obstacles continued to thwart sustainable economic and political reform and Croatian ambitions for closer ties with the European Union. Progress was slow on the contentious issue of the resettlement of Croatian Serbs who had fled the Eastern Slavonia and Krajina regions.⁸ Although encouraged by the European Union and the international community to restore constitutional rights and property to

impediments to the peace and reconstruction process

⁸ See the ICRC's 1998 Annual Report, p. 209.

withdrawal of aid organizations

returning Serbs, Zagreb's promises on refugee resettlement remained largely unkept. Legal and administrative hurdles hampered displaced Serbs from reclaiming their homes, particularly in the former Sector South. Croatia's perceived refusal to cooperate with the ICTY was the other main sticking point that prevented the country from forging deeper diplomatic and economic links with European institutions. In August, the president of the ICTY filed a report with the UN Security Council, and the Croatian authorities subsequently accelerated the extradition process of one of the principal indictees.

Several humanitarian organizations, including UNHCR, scaled down or completely ceased their operations in Croatia in the course of the year. This in itself was an indication that the country was on the road to recovery. By year's end, the ICRC had also pared down its staff in Croatia. It closed its delegation in Zagreb, but maintained a mission there under the umbrella of the Budapest regional delegation.

In the year under review, the ICRC pursued its brief to ascertain the fate of those who had gone missing during the conflict. Working closely with the Croatian and Yugoslav Red Cross tracing departments, delegates continued to try to shed light on over 4,000 tracing requests received since the 1991 conflict, and on the fate of persons who had disappeared during military operations in the former UN Sectors. A concerted effort was made to deepen links with the Croatian Red Cross, particularly with regard to tracing activities, while exhumations continued in Eastern Slavonia, and delegates were able, in some cases, to close their files on persons whose bodies were identifiable.

Throughout the year, the ICRC continued to fulfil its protection mandate. Delegates visited detainees held in relation to the Croatian conflict or for security-related offences, and after the cessation of NATO airstrikes, resumed the programme of family visits to and from the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and Croatia.⁹ For many families, these visits offered the only opportunity to see their detained relatives. A final protection report on the delegates' findings and recommendations with regard to the vulnerable Serb population in the former UN Sectors was submitted to the Croatian authorities in February.

Promotion of the costly, time-consuming activity of clearing mines and unexploded ordnance remained a priority on the ICRC's agenda in Croatia. Estimates indicated that over 6,000 square kilometres, roughly 10 percent of Croatia's territory, were still littered with mines. Some one million persons continued to live and work in the mined areas.

As in the past, the ICRC kept up its support for a community-based initiative to adapt mine-awareness methods to the local context. It was involved in various local projects in communities affected by mines. In former front-line villages and towns, Red Cross branches and local instructors requested that multimedia exhibitions on mine-awareness be continued. The exhibitions were seen by children, adults and the local authorities. In June, the Croatian government, in cooperation with the ICRC, local Red Cross branches and the International Campaign to Ban Landmines, hosted the second Regional Conference on Anti-personnel Landmines in Zagreb. The primary purpose of the conference was to focus attention on the prodigious effort still needed to address the humanitarian problems engendered by landmines.

⁹ See the ICRC's 1998 Annual Report, p. 210.

*over one million people still
threatened by landmines*

working with the National Society

Participants discussed the status and implementation of the Ottawa treaty, mine-awareness and assistance to victims, demining and destruction of existing stock-piles, and the reshaping of military doctrines with regard to mines. The conference was attended by participants from 33 countries, 14 international organizations and 50 non-governmental bodies.

The ICRC participated in and helped organize training seminars for professional and volunteer staff of the tracing departments of Croatian Red Cross branches. For the first time, representatives of both Red Cross entities in Bosnia-Herzegovina were invited to attend. The ICRC gave presentations on its mandate and experiences, tracing activities in Croatia and its role in the ongoing exhumation and identification process.

Vukovar, on the banks of the Danube, was perhaps the most potent symbol of the reconciliation efforts undertaken so far, as the city witnessed some of the worst atrocities of the Croatian conflict. Last year, a project was started to rebuild the Vukovar Red Cross branch with the help of the ICRC and participating National Societies, thus sending a profound political and emotional message to the victims of the conflict.

IN 1999 THE ICRC:



- facilitated six visits by families from Croatia to relatives detained in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia or vice versa;
- visited 86 people held in connection with the past conflict or for security-related offences, in 10 places of detention;



- submitted to the Croatian authorities the cases of 837 people missing as a result of military operations in the former UN Sectors, and provided answers to 104 families regarding the fate of their relatives;



- gave 4 three-day workshops on the law of armed conflict for 120 members of the armed forces;



- as part of its mine-awareness programme involving 100 Croatian Red Cross instructors, organized some 3,833 interactive presentations for 81,161 people, including 53,826 children, and 27 multimedia exhibitions for 21,000 people in mine-infested areas.

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF YUGOSLAVIA

PROTECTION

7,148,803

ASSISTANCE

122,442,876

PREVENTIVE ACTION

1,298,576

COOPERATION WITH THE NATIONAL SOCIETY

1,562,379

OVERHEADS

5,339,065

GENERAL

829,251

TOTAL EXPENDITURE Sfr 138,620,950



⊕ ICRC delegation ⊕ ICRC sub-delegation/office ⊕ ICRC mission + ICRC field office

For the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, the year ended as it had begun - with tension and violence. Serbs and ethnic Albanians failed to settle their differences over Kosovo during talks held at the beginning of the year in Rambouillet, on the outskirts of Paris. The implications of the conflict extended well beyond the Balkans since the collapse of the Rambouillet negotiations was followed by a series of air-strikes on targets in Serbia and Kosovo by NATO member countries. Much of the country's infrastructure was shattered and the region teetered on the brink of economic and monetary collapse. In the largest population movement in Europe over the last 50 years, hundreds of thousands of ethnic Albanians fled, mainly towards neighbouring Albania, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Montenegro. After the cessation of NATO air strikes, waves of displaced people then poured back into Kosovo to find their homes and fields destroyed. In accordance with UN Security Council resolution 1244, Kosovo was placed under the authority of UNMIK.*

After the NATO Secretary General authorized military action against Yugoslavia, the ICRC sent a diplomatic note on 24 March to NATO and its member countries, and

* UNMIK: United Nations Mission in Kosovo

the ICRC 's stance

to the Yugoslav authorities, reminding them of their obligations under international humanitarian law, in particular the four Geneva Conventions of 1949. The ICRC emphasized its readiness to fulfil the mandate conferred on it in the Geneva Conventions, and offered its services as an independent and neutral intermediary. The organization felt that it was crucial to work in proximity to those who would suffer most from the conflict, and accordingly decided to keep its expatriate staff in Yugoslavia.

worsening security situation

In Kosovo, activities at the beginning of the year focused on persons either detained by the Yugoslav authorities or reportedly held by the KLA, on monitoring the security situation and on medical services to the sick and wounded. As the threat of air strikes hardened into a certainty, the ICRC took additional security measures, reducing its staff from 31 to 19 expatriates and stepping up contacts with the authorities. On 29 March, owing to the worsening security situation and restrictions on the mobility of its personnel, the ICRC was forced to withdraw its international staff from Kosovo. In Serbia proper, it opened field offices in conjunction with the Yugoslav Red Cross in Novi Sad, Kraljevo, Nis and Belgrade.

unprotected civilians

The fate of civilians still trapped in Kosovo and exposed to the effects of the hostilities then became an overriding concern for the ICRC. During a visit to Belgrade on 25 April, the ICRC President negotiated the organization's return to Kosovo, and activities resumed on 24 May. As part of a phased return, a team of six delegates was sent to Pristina. In June, the arrival in Kosovo of KFOR, the NATO-led international security force, signalled the end of the conflict. The ICRC sub-delegation in Pristina was made a mission. In July, regional offices were opened in Pec/Peja, in Prizren, in Gnjilane/Gjilane, in the bitterly divided town of Mitrovica (with premises on both the Albanian and Serb sides of town), and two smaller offices in Djakovica/Djakova and Urosevac/Ferizaj.

ICRC emergency operations in Serbia changed dramatically as a result of the war, both in character and in magnitude. Existing food programmes were broadened to cope with larger numbers of beneficiaries, and other assistance projects were implemented to mitigate the effects of the air strikes and damage to water-supply systems and medical facilities. In parallel, protection and tracing activities also increased in scope. By year's end, the ICRC and participating National Societies had 96 expatriates and 450 locally hired staff operating throughout Yugoslavia.

tracing services cope with exodus from Kosovo

By late March, over 800,000 people had fled Kosovo. To cope with this massive displacement, the ICRC tracing agency provided services through its offices in Tirana, Montenegro (Podgorica, Ulcinj, Rozaje), the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Belgrade and the four joint field offices. Several thousand telephone calls were made, enabling people to re-establish contact with their relatives, names of the displaced were broadcast on local and international radio stations and vulnerable persons were reunited with their families in neighbouring or third countries. Delegates collected and distributed Red Cross messages and registered unaccompanied minors and elderly people.

With the arrival of KFOR in Kosovo in June, the vast majority of Kosovo Albanians returned home, and the re-establishment of contacts with friends and family assumed huge importance. To reflect this priority, ICRC mobile teams, each with

*difficulties in fulfilling
the ICRC's protection mandate*

emergency relief operations...

in Serbia...

several satellite telephones, travelled to towns and villages throughout Kosovo, offering members of both Serb and ethnic Albanian communities the opportunity to contact their relatives. The service was extremely useful, particularly in remote villages and for vulnerable and isolated members of non-Albanian communities. As well as providing the phone service, the mobile teams collected allegations of arrests, requests for family reunifications, Red Cross messages and details of unaccompanied children.

In September, delegates began collecting tracing requests from people whose relatives had disappeared. By year's end, 2,950 people were still unaccounted for, and delegates in Kosovo made the systematic collecting and cross-checking of names a priority. At the same time, in a bid to provide psychological support to the families concerned, the ICRC set up six family link centres.

Following the cessation of hostilities, UNMIK appointed the ICRC as lead agency on the critical issue of the thousands of persons still unaccounted for. The ICRC coordinated the activities of international organizations who also dealt with this issue and centralized all data pertaining to the missing.

High on the ICRC's list of priorities was the fate of 1,700 ethnic Albanians held in Serbian prisons after the Yugoslav authorities withdrew from Kosovo in June. While the Dayton Agreement contained clauses pertaining to the release of detainees and the search for the missing, no such provisions were incorporated into the Military Technical Agreement signed by NATO and the Yugoslav army on 9 June. After successful negotiations with the Serbian Ministry of Justice, the ICRC was able to visit ethnic Albanians held in places of detention in Serbia. Relatives of missing persons were able to consult lists of detainees who had been visited by the ICRC, and detainees and their families were then able to contact each other using Red Cross messages. Delegates also visited persons held in the six detention centres under KFOR's responsibility, including those arrested on suspicion of having committed war crimes. In addition, the ICRC organized the safe return to Kosovo of almost all the detainees who had been released from prisons in Serbia. In Kosovo and elsewhere in Yugoslavia, the ICRC gathered information from hundreds of families from the Serb, Roma and other communities who reported that their relatives had been abducted by the KLA or by Kosovo Albanian civilians.

During the year, the ICRC continually adjusted its relief programmes to cope with the number of internally displaced throughout Yugoslavia. At the beginning of the year, ICRC relief efforts targeted some 65,000 beneficiaries in the Podujevo, Racak, Suva Reka and Mitrovica regions. Food, warm clothes and stoves were distributed to the most vulnerable families, and tarpaulins and plastic sheeting given to those whose homes had been damaged. By mid-March, in anticipation of a worsening security situation, additional convoys of relief items were sent to Kosovo, and ICRC teams drew up emergency plans.

By late summer, in cooperation with the Yugoslav Red Cross, the ICRC had launched a soup kitchen programme, with distributions made from roughly 230 points across Serbia. Several thousand people received one hot meal per day, while lunch parcels were delivered to beneficiaries who were unable to reach distribution points. A large segment of this group included some 150,000 Serbs and Roma who had fled Kosovo, fearing reprisals from the ethnic Albanian community.

and in Kosovo

*respect for the rights
of non-Albanians*

*community-based
mine-awareness approach*

*cooperation
with the International Red Cross
and Red Crescent Movement*

After delegates returned to Kosovo on 24 May, they continued to distribute aid to the internally displaced. Several hundred thousand people, mostly those who had remained in the region during the conflict and were living in remote areas, received food and non-food assistance. Large-scale distributions drew to a close in September, but the ICRC continued to plug the gaps in the WFP* pipeline whenever necessary. By the end of the year, the emphasis had shifted to more structured programmes that addressed wider segments of the community. A winter programme to provide heating units and warm clothing for 240,000 beneficiaries was channelled through the emerging local Red Cross, with the dual objectives of meeting the needs of the population and furthering the development of Red Cross structures.

In view of the violent acts perpetrated against non-Albanians in the recent past, new approaches were needed to develop a constructive dialogue on the issue. The ICRC held in-depth discussions with various community leaders and with UNMIK authorities in Kosovo to find effective ways of changing people's attitudes and behaviour towards other ethnic groups.

Given the large number of organizations involved in mine-awareness and demining activities in Kosovo, the ICRC took part in all regular coordination meetings, both to present its own work and approach and to gain an overall picture of other agencies' activities. By the end of the year, the ICRC mine-awareness programme had 11 officers trained in the community-based approach working out of the various ICRC offices around Kosovo. As the ICRC was the lead agency for gathering data on mine incidents, the officers also collected information on people who had died or sustained injuries because of mines and other ordnance.

In 1999, the ICRC assumed the role of the Movement's lead agency in Yugoslavia and as such was responsible for coordinating the activities of participating National Societies, whose involvement remained high throughout the year. A total of 20 National Societies implemented 35 projects and programmes throughout Kosovo and Serbia (18 delegated and 17 bilateral projects) in a wide range of sectors from health, soup kitchens and agriculture to mine-awareness¹⁰. Projects delegated to participating National Societies in Kosovo and Serbia accounted for nearly half of all ICRC delegated projects worldwide. Thanks to their presence, the Movement was able to meet the enormous needs in the region. In Kosovo, the Movement sought to help people to deal with the long-term consequences of the conflict by bolstering the local Red Cross structures.

* WFP: World Food Programme

¹⁰ See pp. 36 and 402.

IN 1999 THE ICRC:



- visited 2,094 detainees held in relation to the conflict in Kosovo, registered 54 people held by KFOR, and transferred 343 released detainees from Serbia proper to Kosovo;



- provided an extensive range of communication services whereby 126,667 telephone calls were made, enabling people in Serbia, Montenegro, Kosovo and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia to re-establish contact with their relatives;
- broadcast 24,409 names of displaced people on local and international radio stations;
- transferred 110 elderly and sick people from enclaves in Kosovo and reunited them with relatives in Serbia;



- within the framework of the Movement's integrated and regional strategy in response to the Balkan crisis, and as lead agency, provided 7,900 tonnes of food and 2,165 tonnes of material assistance to people affected by the conflict and started a soup kitchen programme for beneficiaries in Kosovo (by end-December, some 15,700 meals were being provided daily);
- in Serbia and Montenegro, provided 17,400 tonnes of food and 2,165 tonnes of material assistance to people affected by the conflict;
- in November, supplied some 65,000 hot meals daily, and 21,130 lunch parcels for people unable to reach distribution points across Serbia, (7,930 tonnes of food and 170 tonnes of material assistance)
- by December, had provided 250,000 internally displaced persons from Kosovo with monthly food parcels, and hygiene parcels every two months;
- provided 18,277 Serb and Albanian families in Kosovo with 3,400 tonnes of seed, and 2,835 tonnes of fertilizer;
- for the Vojvodina branch of the Yugoslav Red Cross, financed the purchase of a boat which was used to ferry vulnerable people, including the elderly and children, from one side of the Danube to the other, and to carry relief supplies to areas throughout the province;



- donated medical supplies to five blood banks in Kosovo;



- in Kosovo, supported public health facilities and launched a well-cleaning programme (120,000 wells);
- kept some 50,000 people in Novi Sad supplied with safe drinking water;
- visited health facilities and supported them with technical equipment, mainly generators, in cooperation with the Yugoslav Red Cross;
- financed a weather station in Pancevo to monitor air quality;
- provided health and water and sanitation services in facilities housing internally displaced people in Montenegro;

delegated projects



bilateral projects

● in **Kosovo**, coordinated the following delegated and bilateral projects listed below:

- the American Red Cross participated in the soup kitchen programme (see Relief section) in both north and south Mitrovica and Vushtrri/Vucitern, for more than 2,000 beneficiaries;
- the Austrian Red Cross renovated schools in Prizren;
- the Belgian Red Cross (Flemish section) participated in the soup kitchen programme (see Relief section) in Prizren and Suharekë/Suva Reka for 2,150 beneficiaries;
- the British Red Cross completed repairs on 15 schools in regions south-west of Pristina (Gjakova/Dakovica, Malishevë/Malisevo, Glogovac/Glogovac, Rahovec/Orahovac, Suharekë/Suva Reka) and continued work on other schools in the region;
- the Finnish Red Cross distributed 1,200 hygiene kits and 200 kits with supplies for babies, ran a hospital management project in Gnjilane/Gjilane hospital, continued rehabilitation work on the Viti/Vitina health centre, and coordinated a basic health care project there;
- the German Red Cross participated in the soup kitchen programme (see Relief section) in the Pec/Peja region, serving almost 10,000 people in September and October, 9,500 in November, and 6,000 in December;
- the Japanese Red Cross carried out emergency repairs on small first-aid posts in the Decane/Decan region;
- the Netherlands Red Cross participated in the soup kitchen programme (see Relief section) serving beneficiaries daily in the Gnjilane/Gjilane, Viti/Vitina and Kamenica regions (1,525 people in November, 2,975 in December);
- the Norwegian Red Cross helped with the hospital management programme at the Shtimle/Stimlje Institute for the Mentally Handicapped, and under the farm machinery programme in Skenderaj/Serbica, Glogovac/Glogovac and Lipjan held six agricultural workshops and from November onwards, repaired 60-100 tractors per week;
- the Spanish Red Cross completed repairs on nine schools and renovated a first-aid post in Llabjan, and began a farm machinery programme in Suharekë/Suva Reka;
- the Swedish Red Cross began a water-leakage detection programme and held seminars for the water boards of 12 municipalities;

- the American Red Cross completed an assessment of the Viti/Vitina town water supply;
- the Austrian Red Cross provided 26 villages in the Istok/Istog area with food, non-food items, seed, farm tools, firewood and construction materials;
- the Belgian Red Cross (French section), distributed 162 tonnes of food and 21 tonnes of hygiene material, clothes, blankets, tents and bean seeds in Suharekë/Suva Reka;
- the Canadian Red Cross supported the well-cleaning programme in Kosovo;
- the Danish Red Cross finished work on shelter units in the Vushtrri/Vucitern and Mitrovica areas, and assisted the Shtimle/Stimlje Institute;
- the French Red Cross finished work on 650 houses in the Skanderaj/Serbica region, and distributed monthly food and non-food rations to 10,000 beneficiaries;



- the German Red Cross delivered building supplies for the construction of 400 houses in the Pec/Peja region, completed renovations on the paediatric clinic, and in November, distributed winter items to 10,000 beneficiaries;
- the Italian Red Cross completed an assessment of the gynaecological clinic in Pec/Peja;
- the Kuwait Red Crescent carried out ad hoc relief distributions through the local Red Cross;
- the Saudi Red Crescent provided seven ambulances to seven hospitals in Pristina, Ferizaj/Urosevac, Decan, Gnjilane/Gjilane, Pec/Peja, Prizren and Mitrovica, and medicines to 10 health centres;
- the Swiss Red Cross rebuilt 90 houses and two schools in Voksh/Voksa and Isniq/Istiniq;
- the Turkish Red Crescent distributed food and non-food items to 26,000 people in the Prizren region, while a Turkish Red Crescent mobile medical team covered 36 villages around Prizren, providing 6,000 people with primary health care services;
- the United Arab Emirates Red Crescent reconstructed 1,000 houses in five villages in the Vushtrri/Vucitern region and in July and August, supplied relief assistance for 27,000 beneficiaries;

● in Serbia :

- delegated a soup kitchen programme to the following National Societies: the Belgian Red Cross (French section) in Mladenovac, the Canadian Red Cross in Novi Sad, the Danish Red Cross in Kraljevo, the Italian Red Cross in Kragujevac, and the German Red Cross in Nis;
- the Japanese Red Cross supplied 12 pharmacies with drugs for chronic diseases;
- from September onwards, the Swedish Red Cross ran a water quality programme in health institutions;
- the Finnish Red Cross began reconstruction of the Dragisa Misovic Hospital in Belgrade (bilateral programme);
- the German Red Cross rehabilitated a health centre in Kragujevac (bilateral programme);



- held four training sessions in Vushtrri/Vucitern for 180 future officers of the new Kosovo police force; the three-hour sessions dealt with the ICRC's role, its mandate and principles, and with international humanitarian law;
- in Pristina, gave a day-long seminar on international standards for police officers for 15 military instructors from Europe and North America;
- organized a two-hour presentation on protection issues for 12 international instructors;
- gave presentations on the law of armed conflict and ICRC activities for the Russian KFOR contingent in four regions in Kosovo;



- launched a community-based mine-awareness programme in 250 villages in Kosovo and trained 11 instructors.

FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA

Macedonian generosity

*coordination with other
aid agencies*

support from the Federation

The Kosovo crisis marked a watershed for Macedonian leaders across the political spectrum. Between late March to June, as over 350,000 Kosovar Albanians streamed across the Yugoslav border into the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, observers feared that the country's delicate ethnic fabric might unravel. In a welcome show of political maturity, however, both leaders of the two main ethnic groups that form part of the tripartite governing coalition eschewed any rhetoric that might have ignited social and political unrest.

The refugees were given shelter, albeit at times reluctantly, by Macedonian authorities. It must be underscored, however, that the Kosovar refugees represented almost 18 percent of the Macedonian population - with the exception of Albania, no other country accepted as many refugees onto its soil. The short distance from Kosovo to Skopje, a mere 18 kilometres, allowed the refugees to cross the border in overwhelming numbers - at least 150,000 were accommodated in host families, 110,000 went to seven camps built by NATO forces, and close to 90,000 were evacuated to Western countries that had agreed to accept them.

The crisis in neighbouring Kosovo disrupted economic links with Serbia, causing the country's already moribund economy to shrink even further. Large public-sector enterprises, staffed mainly by Macedonians, were brought to the brink of bankruptcy, and unemployment figures spiralled upwards from 30 to 40 percent. Resentment between the two ethnic groups went up a notch, since the resident Albanian community suffered slightly less as its members were employed primarily in smaller, family-owned businesses and many received remittances from relatives abroad. Concerns about political risks caused foreign investments to dwindle, although major donor nations did pledge to increase their aid and trade ties with Macedonia, as part of their policy to promote stability in the southern Balkans.

UNHCR, in its role as lead agency, coordinated the myriad international aid agencies present in Macedonia during the conflict. To avoid overlapping, specific tasks and responsibilities in the seven refugee camps were assigned to the various NGOs, of whom there were 200 at the peak of the crisis. The ICRC coordinated efforts with UNICEF, the Save the Children Fund and CARE to restore family links. By the end of the summer most of the NGOs had left, but the World Bank and the United Nations Development Programme, encouragingly, stayed on.

Relations with the authorities, nurtured over the years, enabled the ICRC to mobilize its resources quickly and effectively. A Headquarters Agreement was signed on 24 February and the ICRC's upgraded presence in the country - the Skopje office had been made a delegation¹¹ - meant that delegates were able to respond speedily to the crisis. In a matter of weeks, the number of expatriate staff increased from two to more than 30, and locally hired staff from seven to over 100.

The ICRC's activities in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia could not have been carried out without the support of the Federation. For the first time in such a large operation, the Movement adopted an integrated approach, with the Federation as its lead agency. Together with the National Society, the Federation coordinated the operations of participating National Societies active in the refugee camps and provided assistance to persons accommodated in host families, while the ICRC concentrated on emergency assistance at the border and on its protection and tracing

¹¹ See the ICRC's 1998 Annual Report, p. 219.

*using the Internet
to restore family links*

many refugees still remain

PROTECTION	2,609,719
ASSISTANCE	4,072,484
PREVENTIVE ACTION	272,491
COOPERATION WITH THE NATIONAL SOCIETY	172,907
OVERHEADS	361,695
GENERAL	482,934
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	Sfr 7,972,229

programmes. To help the National Society handle the crisis, the ICRC provided material and financial support to the 13 Red Cross branches most directly involved. Skopje subsequently became a vital logistics hub for ICRC relief activities in Kosovo and also housed the central database that stored all information relating to people who had gone missing in the crisis.

The ICRC focused its assistance programme on official checkpoints and on villages that straddled the border with Kosovo and Serbia. Many uprooted families arrived in poor physical condition and in need of medical care, particularly in the Tetovo region. Delegates worked round the clock with the National Society to transport the wounded and ill to medical NGOs, and to provide food, water and blankets to exhausted new arrivals.

Twentieth century technology set the Kosovo conflict apart from the many others that had preceded it. For the first time in the history of war, refugees had the use of cellular phones and the Internet. A few days after the crisis broke out, the ICRC, in cooperation with the American Red Cross, set up tents in each of the seven camps and opened tracing offices in Skopje and Tetovo. Delegates quickly adapted traditional methods of re-establishing links between families who had become separated: mobile and cellular phones were used as well as Red Cross messages, and for the first time, a specific Web site was set up. Thousands of refugees were able to communicate with relatives who had been left behind in Kosovo, or were in third countries. The new communication network also made it possible to reunite the most vulnerable - unaccompanied children and elderly persons - more quickly with their families.

In June, hostilities ceased after the signing of the Military Technical Agreement by the Yugoslav armed forces and NATO. This resulted in a mass displacement of Kosovar Albanians back to their homes, but at year's end 20,750 refugees remained in the country and gave cause for concern. The numbers included Albanians who knew that their homes in Kosovo had been destroyed, groups of Roma who feared that they might be targeted for reprisal if they returned to Kosovo, and Serbian refugees. The National Society conducted tracing activities on their behalf, while an ICRC delegate regularly visited the eight collective centres in which they were housed.

IN 1999 THE ICRC:



- established a communication network in seven camps, including a special tracing Web site, allowing some 160,000 refugees to contact relatives in third countries;
- facilitated 7,764 telephone calls and handled 13,370 Red Cross messages;
- broadcast a weekly list of names on international and local radio stations;
- opened 1,670 tracing requests concerning vulnerable people and unaccompanied children/parents seeking their children;
- reunited 399 families;



- as part of the Movement's integrated and regional strategy in response to the Balkans crisis, distributed food and other supplies in cooperation with Red Cross volunteers to refugees stranded on the border;
- helped speed up the entry procedure for vulnerable people and provided the same assistance to refugees returning to Kosovo;



- closely monitored the quality of health care for refugees at the Tetovo hospital, in camps and other facilities;
- provided 12 medical kits to small clinics and National Society branches;



- organized three presentations on the law of armed conflict and on the ICRC's mandate and activities for NATO troops based in Macedonia; the first presentation was held for CIMIC (civilian-military cooperation) officers from all five brigades prior to their mission in Kosovo, the second was given to senior officers from the French brigade in Kumanovo, and the third course was attended by 17 officers of the Macedonian armed forces;



- translated 20,000 leaflets on mine-awareness into Albanian and Serbian and distributed leaflets produced by UNICEF.

TURKEY

The ICRC held talks with the Turkish authorities on several occasions in 1999, relaunching discussions on cooperation with the military authorities to promote international humanitarian law among the armed forces. It also made plans to develop humanitarian law programmes for universities and to further strengthen cooperation with the Turkish Red Crescent Society, particularly in the fields of dissemination and tracing.

In February, the Deputy Delegate-General for Europe and North America travelled to Ankara for talks at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Delegates also held fruitful discussions with the President, Vice-President and Director General of the Turkish Red Crescent. From April onwards, an ICRC cooperation delegate returned to Turkey on several extended missions, where he met with the authorities, the National Society and academic circles for further dialogue on dissemination activities.

BUDAPEST

Regional delegation

(Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia)

delegates continue existing dissemination programme

Over the course of the year, as events unfolded dramatically in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, some of the countries covered by the regional delegation found themselves unwillingly drawn into the conflict. The Czech Republic, Poland and Hungary became full members of NATO in March, and two weeks later the air campaign against Yugoslavia forced the Hungarian government to perform a delicate balancing act. As the only member of the Alliance to share a border with Yugoslavia, the authorities in Budapest provided limited logistical support to NATO forces, fearing possible retaliation on the ethnic Hungarian minority in Vojvodina in northern Serbia. In view of the situation in Yugoslavia and the subsequent influx of refugees into Hungary, the ICRC worked directly with the Hungarian Department of Refugees to facilitate the issuing of travel documents for persons wishing to join their families in third countries.

After a lengthy period of friction, the arrival of a new government in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia brought a change for the better in relations between Skopje and Sofia. The Bulgarian government continued to steer a course towards integration in the European Union and NATO, and gave its approval for the newly-established Balkan peacekeeping force to be based in Plovdiv for the coming four years.

As attacks on members of Roma communities increased over the year, the regional delegation continued to keep a close watch on this vulnerable ethnic minority, present in all the countries covered, bar Poland. Otherwise, the delegation focused on implementation of its dissemination programme. To this end, delegates fostered contacts with National Societies, government and media circles so as to promote knowledge of international humanitarian law and its incorporation into national legislation. By year's end, a working group set up in tandem with the Bulgarian Ministry of Foreign Affairs had completed a study of national legislation with a view to the incorporation therein of humanitarian law, while in all the other countries covered, substantial progress was achieved on implementation of the law. The ICRC President paid an official visit to Bratislava in February, at the invitation of the Slovak Ministry of Foreign Affairs. During the visit, a cooperation agreement was signed on the dissemination of humanitarian law to the Slovak armed forces. During another presidential mission to Prague in May, a similar agreement was signed on the dissemination of humanitarian law to the Czech armed forces. At the end of May, the President visited Warsaw, where he discussed humanitarian issues with the President of the Republic, the Speaker of Parliament, the Prime Minister and the Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Defence.

In the drive to spread knowledge of humanitarian law, numerous seminars were held for the region's armed and police forces. The delegation organized a two-week training session for senior officers at the Bulgarian police academy, held discussions with officials of the Czech Ministry of Defence and the armed forces with a view to organizing seminars and courses on the law of armed conflict, and in Hungary, at the third international course for military observers organized by the Hungarian Operational Centre, gave a presentation on compliance with humanitarian law during peacekeeping operations. A one-day seminar was held in March for generals and other senior officers of the Polish armed forces and for legal experts. Topics dealt with included the law of armed conflict and its incorporation in the training of armed

contacts with academic circles

*cooperation
with National Societies*

forces. In November, a regional seminar on the same subjects was organized in Warsaw with the support of the Polish military authorities. The seminar was attended by deputy chiefs of staff and heads of the training departments of the armed forces of Belarus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Slovakia and Ukraine.

Delegates met regularly with officials of the Slovak Ministry of Defence and with representatives of the Slovak armed forces. Their discussions culminated in a course being held in September for senior lecturers at the Liptovsky Mikulas Academy. Training sessions for instructors were held for senior officers of military academies in Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Romania, Slovenia and Slovakia.

Over the year, delegates visited universities in the capitals of the seven countries covered. In February, the delegation was invited to give a presentation on humanitarian law for representatives of journalism schools in central and eastern Europe, while in March the regional legal adviser was a member of the jury of an international moot court competition held at the Faculty of European Studies, Cluj-Napoca University, Romania. In cooperation with the Romanian Association of Humanitarian Law, the legal adviser gave a talk on humanitarian law for State employees, and in July delivered the opening lecture at the Warsaw summer course on international humanitarian law, organized by the Polish Red Cross and the ICRC.

Close contacts were maintained with the National Societies of all the countries covered, with the aim of developing their dissemination programmes. The ICRC provided computer equipment and assistance for the tracing department of the Bulgarian Red Cross, financial and technical support to the Slovak Red Cross, and helped the Czech Red Cross to finalize a dissemination programme for secondary schools, based on the "People on War" project.¹² It backed the initiative of the Hungarian Red Cross to publish a brochure on humanitarian law in the country's official language. In partnership with the German Red Cross, the Romanian Red Cross organized a series of leadership seminars, for which the ICRC financed the translation into the official language of training information on dissemination. In October, a round table on tracing activities was held in Prague for National Societies from the region. Discussions at the round table enabled officials from National Societies of the former Soviet republics and Eastern European countries to forge closer ties with each other, so as to build up a broad network for tracing activities.

¹² See pp. 348-350.

KYIV

Regional delegation

(Belarus, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Moldova, Ukraine)

The year under review saw a number of significant changes in the political and economic landscape of the countries covered by the Kyiv regional delegation. The Ukrainian president was re-elected to another five-year term of office and promised to push crucial economic reforms through parliament, to continue building a democratic society and to develop international relations based on principles of international law. He also reiterated that his country supported a common European security system, and would continue to participate in peacekeeping operations. The Crimea, an area of potential trouble that was particularly badly hit by the economic crisis affecting the country, inched its way towards greater stability. The three Baltic States, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, continued to press for membership in the European Union and NATO. Belarus concluded a treaty with the Russian Federation on the creation of a single economic, social and legal zone in the form of a union state, and the two countries also pledged to coordinate their military and foreign policies. Moldova underwent a political crisis when its coalition government, committed to reform, resigned. The country's new government was confronted with an economy in the doldrums, a huge external debt and a long-running constitutional dispute with the self-proclaimed Moldovan Republic of Dniestr (Transnistria). Ukraine actively stepped up its efforts to mediate a solution to the problem of territorial settlement in Moldova. At the OSCE summit in Istanbul, Russia pledged to withdraw its troops and ammunition from the territory of the self-proclaimed Moldovan Republic of Dniestr by the end of 2002.

The ICRC continued to enjoy good relations and to develop greater ties of cooperation with the authorities of the countries covered by the regional delegation. ICRC offers of assistance were accepted, and delegates pursued the organization's programmes to promote humanitarian law. Considerable progress was made in incorporating humanitarian law into national legislation in Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine. Broader public understanding of the principles of the law contributed to a rise in the delegation's activities.

The plight of security detainees, notably those held in the self-proclaimed Moldovan Republic of Dniestr in connection with events that took place in 1992, remained a cause for concern. The ICRC continued to negotiate with the authorities in Tiraspol regarding access to the security detainees of the "Ilascu group", and met with the Deputy State Security Minister to clarify the purpose of visits to detainees and standard procedures for such visits. Negotiations with the authorities did not, however, yield any tangible results.

The ICRC helped reunite a Georgian citizen, a resident of Abkhazia, with his family in Ukraine.

The delegation continued to provide advice and technical support for the incorporation of international humanitarian law into national legislation. To this end, delegates met regularly with the national committees for the implementation of humanitarian law in Belarus and Moldova, and in the countries where such committees had not yet been established, with State officials and groups working on the implementation of this body of law, to chart their progress and make recommendations. The publication, with ICRC assistance, of the Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols in Estonian and the official language of Moldova considerably facilitated the task of the authorities responsible for the incorporation of humanitarian law into

visits to detainees stymied

*incorporating humanitarian law
into national legislation*

working with Defence Ministries

national legislation. In Lithuania and Latvia, the ICRC presented the authorities with its comments and recommendations on the penal code, with particular emphasis on the section dealing with war crimes and the law on the protection and use of the red cross and red crescent emblems. With ICRC support, Lithuania carried out a study on the state of national legislation in the light of humanitarian law. A penal code incorporating recommendations made by the ICRC on the repression of war crimes was adopted in Belarus. Ukraine and Moldova adopted legislation on the protection and use of the red cross and red crescent emblems, that complied with the Geneva Conventions. Discussions continued with the Ukrainian authorities to speed up the establishment of a national structure to coordinate the implementation of humanitarian law. Of particular note was a seminar on the implementation of humanitarian law held in Lithuania and attended by high-level representatives of Baltic and Central European States. Countries which had not yet adhered to certain international treaties, such as the Ottawa treaty or the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, were encouraged to do so.

Promoting knowledge of humanitarian law among the region's armed forces remained a matter of particular importance to the Kyiv regional delegation, which followed up on the progress made in making the law a part of military training programmes. Within the framework of the cooperation agreements signed with the Ministries of Defence in Ukraine, Belarus and Moldova, a number of presentations, seminars and courses were conducted to help the armed forces incorporate this subject into training programmes.

Senior military commanders from Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Belarus and Ukraine, together with officers from central European States participated in the Central and Eastern European seminar on the law of armed conflict organized by the ICRC in Warsaw from 23 to 25 November. The aim of the seminar was to focus attention on the responsibility of States to teach the law of armed conflict, to integrate this body of law into training programmes and to foster regional dialogue on the topic. The officers present showed an encouraging degree of interest and commitment, and acknowledged the ICRC's role in support of national efforts to incorporate the law of armed conflict into training programmes. Three senior officers from the Ministries of Defence of Ukraine, Belarus and Moldova respectively took part in the third Russian-language course on the law of armed conflict held at the International Institute of Humanitarian Law in San Remo, Italy.

The delegation widened its contacts with the Joint Baltic Defence College in Estonia, established to train future officers from the Baltic States. The teaching of humanitarian law is a basic course module, and the ICRC pledged to help develop training programmes and to train instructors in the subject.

In accordance with an agreement signed with the Estonian Ministry of Defence, the ICRC financed the translation into Estonian of its "Handbook on the law of war for armed forces". It also provided for the preparation of handbooks for the armed forces in Ukraine and Moldova.

The ICRC participated in the annual international peacekeeping exercise, "Amber Hope", which in 1999 was organized by the Lithuanian Ministry of Defence. The exercise provided an opportunity to put into practice the basic principles of the law of armed conflict and to enhance cooperation with other international organizations, such as UNHCR.

The ICRC and the Moldovan Ministry of Defence together reviewed and evaluated their existing cooperation programme. The growing ability of the armed forces to provide their own, ICRC-trained instructors in the law of armed conflict was particularly encouraging. A deputy chief of the Moldovan armed forces general staff participated in an ICRC course for Romanian officers, held in Bucharest in December, an event which provided an opportunity for the armed forces from both countries to strengthen their contacts.

In Ukraine, a significant change occurred when the Ministry of Defence established a working group to coordinate the dissemination of the law of armed conflict to the Ukrainian armed forces. The ICRC stepped up its contacts with this group.

In 1999, the ICRC launched a programme to spread knowledge of humanitarian law among the region's police and security forces. Initial contacts were established with the Ministries of the Interior of Ukraine, Belarus and Moldova. Information seminars were organized for the police academies in all three countries. Contacts were reinforced, the objectives of the programme presented, and a number of training courses drawn up. At the end of the year the Ministries of the Interior concerned were studying an ICRC proposal to conclude agreements in the sphere of humanitarian law.

Interest in humanitarian law also ran high in academic circles, and the ICRC continued to offer its assistance to incorporate study of the law into university curricula. It also organized seminars and supported the distribution of teaching materials and the exchange of information on the topic. In preparation for the introduction of humanitarian law as a subject in all universities for the next academic year, the ICRC helped produce a textbook on the law, the first of its kind, in Belarus.

The ICRC continued to give the region's National Societies technical and financial assistance for their tracing, dissemination and communication activities. In addition, it carried out joint relief activities with the Ukrainian Red Cross branch in the Crimea, providing support for a full range of assistance programmes for vulnerable people in this unstable part of the world. The ICRC provided basic medicines and emergency materials for first-aid centres and for the visiting nurses programme, and financed hot lunches served in a canteen in Simferpol. The programmes helped bolster the long-term position in the region of the Crimean branch of the Ukrainian Red Cross Society.

cooperation with police forces

dissemination at universities

*cooperation
with National Societies*

IN 1999 THE ICRC:



- pursued negotiations with the authorities in an effort to gain regular access to security detainees, held since 1992 in Tiraspol, in the self-proclaimed Moldovan Republic of Dniestr;



- in the Crimea, financed 6,680 hot lunches in a Simferopol canteen for 600 beneficiaries, including elderly and displaced persons;
- provided equipment and basic medicines for 81 Red Cross visiting nurses, who delivered lunches to 100 housebound people and dispensed medical and social services;



- provided medical assistance to 26 first-aid centres in settlements for 26,000 "formerly deported people" and other beneficiaries in the Crimea;
- established 22 medico-social rooms in the Crimea for some 60,000 beneficiaries;



- provided financial and material support to the tracing services of the region's Red Cross Societies (in March, a Moldovan Red Cross tracing officer went to Romania to train Romanian Red Cross tracing staff);
- provided support for the publication of Red Cross bulletins, calendars and other printed and video materials;
- strengthened the National Societies by training and assisting dissemination officers (two training sessions were organized for Estonian, Latvian, Lithuanian and Ukrainian officers in May);
- provided support for two dissemination seminars organized by the Lithuanian Red Cross, in Vilnius and Kaunas;
- with the Federation, helped the Latvian Red Cross organize a seminar for journalists in the town of Jurmala, near Riga;
- with the Federation, conducted a workshop on the principles and implementation of the Seville Agreement, for the Ukraine Red Cross Society;
- with the Ukrainian Red Cross, held seminars on humanitarian law in Chernigov, Poltava, Lutsk, Odessa, Donetsk and Ternopil (representatives from both Chisinau and Tiraspol were invited to the Odessa seminar);
- participated in seminars on population movements given by the Ukrainian Red Cross in Simferopol and Lviv;
- assisted the Crimean branch of the Ukrainian Red Cross to conduct seven seminars for local authorities, teachers and Red Cross staff;
- contributed to the celebration of International Red Cross and Red Crescent Day in Minsk, organized by the Belarusian Red Cross;
- supported the Belarusian Red Cross in the organization of a seminar in Vitebsk for dissemination officers and teachers working as Red Cross volunteers;
- assisted the Belarusian Red Cross in organizing a youth camp for Red Cross volunteers;
- with the Belarusian Red Cross, organized a training seminar for Red Cross staff from Minsk;
- in tandem with the Federation, held talks with the National Society in Moldova on its reconstitution and established contact between the Chisinau headquarters and the Red Cross branch in Tiraspol;



- continued to back the publication of "Justice of Belarus", a legal journal which also covers humanitarian law;
- contributed to the publication of the book "Human Rights in the Republic of Moldova" in English and Moldovan;
- supported the participation of representatives of the Ukrainian, Belarusian and Moldovan governments at ICRC courses held for CIS officials responsible for the implementation of humanitarian law;
- arranged for the participation in Brussels of the national committees for the implementation of humanitarian law of Belarus and Moldova at the first meeting of the European committees and other bodies dealing with this issue;
- supplied the region's armed forces with training material;
- in Ukraine, held seminars for senior Ministry of Defence staff, conducted a seminar for 44 officers of the Dnepropetrovsk Division, held a seminar in March on the teaching of the law of armed conflict for 25 lecturers from Ukrainian military schools, and held seminars for 19 officers of the South Operational Command in Odessa, for 30 Ukrainian naval officers in Sevastopol, for 35 officers from the Ivano-Frankovsk army corps in western Ukraine, for 24 staff officers of the Zhitomir Corps, and for 28 officers of the Simferopol Army Corps;
- gave a presentation in Kyiv in October for 31 officers from peacekeeping units;
- in November, held an information seminar for 156 staff members of the Central Scientific and Research Institute of the Ukrainian armed forces in Kyiv;
- conducted a seminar for 36 medical officers from the Belarus Military Medical Institute in Minsk in November, as part of the cooperation programme carried out by the ICRC and the Belarusian Ministry of Defence to promote the incorporation of the law of armed conflict into military training programmes;
- in Belarus, conducted a joint seminar for 17 officers at Air Force Headquarters in Minsk on 26 and 27 May;
- in Moldova, conducted a seminar for instructors and cadets at the armed forces training centre in September, organized a seminar for 29 officers from the Chisinau garrison, gave two presentations on the law of armed conflict for 141 Ministry of Defence officers, and held training sessions for 43 instructors;
- conducted an information seminar for 28 officers and civilians from the Estonian Ministry of Defence;
- in Belarus, held a seminar on law enforcement bodies in democratic States for 90 officers from the Police Academy in Minsk, organized a seminar in November on humanitarian law, juvenile delinquency and the use of force and firearms for 57 police and security officers and instructors in Minsk, gave three presentations on the ICRC's mandate and humanitarian law to 160 officers and cadets of the Police Academy of Belarus, spoke about effective presentation techniques for the teaching of humanitarian law and human rights to 250 teachers of the Police Academy of Belarus;
- held a pilot seminar for 30 teachers and staff members of the Police Academy of Ukraine on humanitarian law;
- gave a presentation to 180 graduates of the Moldovan Police Academy on humanitarian law and human rights;
- provided financial support for four students, three from Belarus and one from Lithuania, to take part in courses on humanitarian law in Warsaw and Namur (Belgium);

- in May, held the third De Martens International Moot Court Competition in Minsk, in which teams from Belarus, Ukraine and Moldova participated;
- supported the participation of eight people from Belarus, Ukraine and Moldova at the CIS regional seminar for university teachers of humanitarian law;
- in Belarus, helped publish a university textbook on international humanitarian law in Russian;
- participated in a press conference with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ukrainian Red Cross on the 50th anniversary of the Geneva Conventions; Ukrainian and international mass media were present at the event, and broadcast commentaries on the history and development of humanitarian law and on the problems encountered in its implementation;
- at the first international book fair in Kyiv, displayed all ICRC publications available in Russian, and the main publications in French and English.

MOSCOW

Regional delegation

(Russian Federation,
with specialized services
for all the countries in the region)

*promoting universal
humanitarian standards*

*working with the Ministries
of Defence and the Interior*

PROTECTION

91,780

ASSISTANCE

9,893,444

PREVENTIVE ACTION

4,331,972

COOPERATION WITH THE NATIONAL SOCIETY

2,018,009

OVERHEADS

988,017

GENERAL

2,290,631

TOTAL EXPENDITURE Sfr 19,613,854

On 31 December, President Boris Yeltsin unexpectedly resigned and the prime minister, Vladimir Putin, was appointed acting president. During the year, the Russian Federation had continued the painful transition from a centrally-planned economy to a free market democracy and witnessed a resumption of hostilities in the northern Caucasus. The new leader inherited a lacklustre economy, high unemployment and uncertainty caused by the humanitarian and financial costs of the conflict in Chechnya. Earlier, tensions in the Balkans had repercussions far beyond the confines of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia; Russian leaders were sharply critical of NATO air strikes, although efforts were subsequently made to heal the rift with NATO member countries.

Political change and judicial reform permeated all layers of society in Russia, in the CIS countries, and in the Baltic States. For the ICRC, these sweeping reforms presented a unique opportunity to have universal humanitarian standards built into the foundations of society. Dissemination of the principles of international humanitarian law and knowledge of the ICRC's specific mandate therefore continued to be issues of particular concern to the regional delegation in Moscow, which served as the focal point in terms of both human and material resources for activities carried out in CIS countries and the Baltic States. Its tasks in the region were many and varied - for example, legal studies on the incorporation of humanitarian law into national legislation were submitted to the governments of Armenia, Georgia and Turkmenistan respectively, and training programmes on its implementation were run for officials from Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Turkmenistan and Ukraine.

In the light of the heightened tensions resulting in armed conflict in the northern Caucasus, steps to promote the incorporation of humanitarian law into training programmes for armed and security forces assumed particular importance. In accordance with cooperation agreements signed with the Russian Ministries of the Interior and Defence and with the federal border guard service, numerous presentations and seminars on the law of armed conflict were organized for senior officers at the Centre for General Staff in Moscow, for Russian officers deployed on the border with Tajikistan, and for troops from the (northern Caucasus) Nalchik section of the Ministry of the Interior. The delegation produced a training video on the law of armed conflict, designed to address the needs of troops deployed on the borders of the Russian Federation. A presentation on the importance of specific training on the rules governing the conduct of hostilities was given at the Suvorov Combined Arms Academy. Of particular significance was the ICRC-organized conference on the law of armed conflict attended by senior officers and teaching staff of the Ministry of Defence. Pursuant to a conference decision, a manual on this body of law was drafted for the Russian armed forces, by the ICRC and the Ministry of Defence. A series of presentations on the need to comply with humanitarian law during peacekeeping operations was organized in Kosovo for Russian troops deployed there.

The ICRC pursued its efforts to have international humanitarian law included in the academic curricula at faculties of law, International relations and journalism in the CIS countries. ICRC staff attended conferences and seminars on the subject throughout Russia, and gave presentations on topics related to the law. Advanced seminars continued to be organized in the Moscow region for junior lecturers from faculties of law and international relations. The ICRC organized a seminar on

*teaching international
humanitarian law*

ICRC schools programme

*cooperation
with the National Society*

"International Humanitarian Law in the Professional Training of Journalists". Held in Snegiri, outside Moscow, the seminar was attended by deans and heads of departments of faculties of journalism in CIS countries. The third De Martens Moot Court Competition took place in May in Belarus; participants came from the law faculties of universities in Russia and neighbouring States. During the competition, they were asked to work on diverse humanitarian law problems arising from an imaginary conflict situation. A special edition of the "Moscow Journal of International Law" was finalized in time for the 50th anniversary of the 1949 Geneva Conventions.

The ICRC schools programme entered its fourth year. The programme was designed to familiarize young people with the principles underlying humanitarian law and the mandate and activities of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. In 80 regions across the vast Russian Federation, over two million textbooks have been distributed to fifth-grade students and 1.8 million books went to sixth-graders. The books contain texts and exercises showing that there are limits to violence, even in extreme situations such as war. Over the course of the year, delegates organized seminars for teachers, met with heads of local departments of education, and trained regional coordinators. With the help of local Red Cross branches, the ICRC also carried out evaluations on the use of the fifth- and sixth-grade textbooks. Feedback from teachers was extremely positive, while 98% of seventh-grade students who used the ICRC trial textbook indicated that they wished to continue using it in the eighth grade.

Despite security constraints, ICRC activities in the northern Caucasus were stepped up to respond to the humanitarian needs arising from the crisis in the region. On 30 October, the ICRC, the Russian Red Cross Society and the Federation agreed on a joint plan of action with regard to the conduct of subsequent operations. In accordance with the provisions of the Seville Agreement, the ICRC assumed the role of lead agency and worked to mobilize the Movement's human, material and financial resources as quickly and efficiently as possible.¹³

The delegation in Moscow continued to cooperate with the Russian Red Cross on tracing matters. In early October, the heads of the Russian and Ukrainian Red Cross tracing services and the ICRC cooperation delegate in Moscow participated in Prague in the first round table for the tracing services of Central European countries. Topics under discussion dealt mostly with matters relating to the Second World War and gave rise to fruitful exchanges on numerous bilateral issues between National Societies of the former Soviet Union and Eastern European countries.

At the end of November, the regional delegation organized in Moscow the fourth annual round table for tracing services of the CIS and Baltic National Societies. The event provided an opportunity to establish a network amongst archivists from the various National Societies. High on the agenda was compensation for victims of the Second World War to be paid by the German government on the basis of certificates delivered by the Red Cross tracing services, and the declassification of archives containing information on Soviet soldiers missing in action on the territory of the former East Germany and in central Europe. The lack of documents and guidelines on appropriate steps to take in the event of a natural disaster was also discussed.

¹³ See pp. 272-277 for a complete description of ICRC activities in the northern Caucasus.

IN 1999 THE ICRC:



- gave 12 presentations on humanitarian law for 967 members of the armed and security forces;
- coordinated the organization of a regional workshop in Lithuania on the implementation of humanitarian law for officials from Baltic and central European States;
- under the schools programme, held 18 seminars to train 684 teachers in the use of ICRC textbooks;
- completed an impact evaluation of the fifth-grade textbook;
- printed and distributed 92,000 copies of the definitive sixth-grade teachers' manual, and 1.8 million textbooks for sixth-graders;
- received the results of the trial phase of the seventh-grade textbook;
- took part in 14 regional academic conferences on human rights, humanitarian law and conflict resolution across the Russian Federation;



- financed five issues of the Russian Red Cross Magazine, which was produced entirely by the National Society and distributed to subscribers throughout the country;
- supported Russian Red Cross headquarters and its regional representatives in the northern Caucasus and southern Russia, with a view to reinforcing management skills to enable local staff to run operational activities on their own;
- organized the fourth annual round table for tracing officers from CIS countries and the Baltic States.

Northern Caucasus



⊕ ICRC sub-delegation + ICRC presence ||||| Prigorodny district

The year under review witnessed a fresh outbreak of hostilities in this volatile region. Although tensions in Chechnya dominated the headlines, sporadic clashes occurred throughout the other northern Caucasus republics as well. Seven years after fighting began between Ingush and Ossetians in the Prigorodny district in North Ossetia, ongoing negotiations between the governments of Ingushetia and North Ossetia remained inconclusive. In Prigorodny, resentment simmered as thousands of Ingush were unable to return to their homes there, and Ingush houses in the region were the target of arson attacks. In March, a bomb explosion in Vladikavkaz, the capital of North Ossetia, left 64 people dead and over 120 wounded. In the republic of Daghestan, two earthquakes caused severe damage in the western district of Kizliar early in the year, while the political landscape was marred by confrontations and protest marches. In the republic of Karachayevo-Cherkesskaya, clashes erupted after the results of the presidential elections were challenged, and the prime minister was forced to declare a state of emergency.

The long, chequered history of the Chechen-Russian conflict reached a turning point at the beginning of August. Armed insurgent groups, a majority of whom were

Chechnya

abduction of an ICRC medical delegate

humanitarian consequences of the fighting

Chechens, seized control of several villages in Daghestan and declared it to be an independent Islamic state. A series of bomb explosions in August and September in Buinaksk, Volgodonsk and Moscow itself left more than 300 people dead, hundreds wounded, and entire blocks of flats pulverised. One month later, with the declared intention of preventing the armed groups from repeating their attacks, Russian federal forces regained control of the Daghestani villages and hostilities began on Chechen soil. Air attacks were launched on Chechnya and by December, the federal forces had taken back most of the region, while the bitter battle for Grozny raged unabated.

The volatile security situation in the region precluded the permanent presence of ICRC expatriate staff in Chechnya, Daghestan, Ingushetia and North Ossetia. However, five small offices staffed by local employees continued to operate in Grozny, Khasavyurt, Nazran, Vladikavkaz and Stavropol, so that ICRC operations in seven republics and in Krasnodar and Stavropol districts could be efficiently supervised and monitored, albeit at a distance. The situation took a dramatic turn for the worse, however, when an ICRC medical delegate was abducted in Nalchik (Kabardino-Balkaria) on 15 May. To limit security risks, the number of expatriate staff based in the northern Caucasus was immediately reduced from eleven to the operational minimum of three, and the ICRC completely suspended some of its assistance programmes and curtailed others. The delegate was released on 20 July.

After the first clashes between Russian federal forces and the insurgents, some 30,000 people were displaced within Daghestan. When fighting began in Chechnya itself, the military operations, which included air and artillery attacks, drove over 250,000 mainly Chechen civilians, including elderly people, women and children, to abandon their homes within the space of a few weeks. Most fled to Ingushetia, swelling the ranks of those displaced by the earlier Chechen-Russian conflict (1994-1996) and the Ingush-North Ossetia hostilities, while another 20,000 managed to reach the Khasavyurt region in Daghestan. By the end of December, however, the difficult conditions in Ingushetia, coupled with declarations from the Russian authorities that they would facilitate the resettlement of the internally displaced in Chechnya, had prompted about 70,000 people, according to government estimates, to return to their villages and to towns and districts under federal control. The fate of the civilian population within Chechnya, those stranded in the southern mountains and the 30,000 to 40,000 people thought to have stayed on in Grozny, was a cause for serious concern.

Despite the appalling security conditions, ICRC operations continued in Daghestan, Ingushetia and Chechnya. From 6 November onwards, security constraints forced the ICRC and the Chechen branch of the Russian Red Cross to leave Chechnya and redeploy in Ingushetia. The Russian authorities, the ICRC, local branches of the Russian Red Cross and the UN supplied the bulk of the emergency supplies needed for the people pouring out of Chechnya. Acting as the lead agency for the Movement's components, the ICRC launched a five-month plan of action in November for relief activities for a target population of 150,000 displaced people. This figure encompassed 100,000 beneficiaries in the republics of Daghestan, Ingushetia, Kabardino-Balkaria and North Ossetia, 30,000 beneficiaries in Chechnya, and 20,000 displaced people who had resettled in various regions of the Russian Federation other than the northern Caucasus.

ICRC response

ensuring protection for the victims

assistance to civilians throughout the northern Caucasus

relief activities in Chechnya

the displaced in Ingushetia

In November, ICRC delegates from headquarters in Geneva met with high-ranking officials of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Defence in Moscow. Delegates also held talks with officials from the Ministries of the Interior and of Nationalities. Discussions focused on the conduct of hostilities, the plight of the victims, and the situation of displaced people, the wounded and detainees. Accompanied by the vice-president of the Russian Red Cross, delegates later went to the northern Caucasus, where they reviewed the Red Cross emergency operation and evaluated security conditions.

At year's end, the relief operation in the northern Caucasus was being coordinated by a team of six ICRC expatriate staff permanently based in Nalchik, with assistance from the ICRC delegation in Moscow, and medical, relief, water and habitat and logistics experts from headquarters in Geneva. Expatriate delegates worked together with some 200 national staff in seven republics and in the Stavropol and Krasnodar districts, while staff formerly based in Grozny who were forced to leave on 6 November were redeployed to Ingushetia.

Following the outbreak of hostilities first in Daghestan, then in Chechnya, the ICRC initiated a dialogue with the parties involved in the hostilities on respect for international humanitarian law. It also requested access to all those arrested and detained in relation to the conflict. Throughout the year, the ICRC continued to support local Red Cross branches in the northern Caucasus in their efforts to restore family links. Until the end of October, it was possible to transmit Red Cross messages to and from Chechnya. After October, messages were sent to Ingushetia, from where most of them were forwarded to the CIS countries.

The ICRC worked with Russian Red Cross branches and with local staff to provide ongoing assistance to orphanages, psychiatric hospitals and homes for the elderly, as well as to the most vulnerable groups throughout the region. After the kidnapping of the ICRC delegate in May, however, most relief and health activities, including assistance for civilians and institutions, were suspended.

In cooperation with the Chechen branch of the Russian Red Cross, the ICRC continued its bread programme in Grozny and in four other urban areas, providing mostly elderly people with 12 loaves per month. Direct assistance was also given to beneficiaries in institutions such as orphanages, psychiatric hospitals and homes for the elderly, and supplies were donated to the blood bank, rehabilitated by the ICRC in 1998, and to four main hospitals in Grozny. Tanker trucks donated by the ICRC distributed water throughout Grozny, while the only pumping station for chlorinated and safe drinking water, managed by the ICRC, provided water for the Chechen capital. All activities were suspended after the withdrawal of ICRC and local Red Cross staff in November.

To cope with the influx of displaced people from Chechnya, host families provided accommodation, and the Russian authorities built seven camps in Ingushetia for some 25,000 people. The ICRC provided water and sanitation assistance to the camps, while the Ingush branch of the Russian Red Cross distributed 10,000 loaves of bread daily. The displaced in host families and those in large, spontaneously formed settlements in areas including the Sunzhenski district also received family parcels, blankets, cooking utensils and clothes. Meals were provided for beneficiaries in Nazran and Sleptsovskaya, while in November and December, the ICRC

new arrivals in Daghestan

displaced Chechens in North Ossetia and Kabardino-Balkaria

visiting nurses programme

promoting knowledge of humanitarian law

supplied Ingushetia's five hospitals with medical material and medicines enabling them to treat hundreds of war-wounded, purchased two ambulances which were used as mobile medical units, and provided drinking water to the main camps in the Karabulak region.

After the earthquakes at the beginning of the year, delegates carried out two rounds of distributions to assist villagers in the regions most badly hit, while the Daghestani branch of the Russian Red Cross provided food parcels, blankets and tents. In August and again later in the year, convoys of relief supplies were dispatched by the sub-delegation in Nalchik within 48 hours of the onset of hostilities to assist the people forced to flee.

In the aftermath of the bomb explosion in Vladikavkaz at the beginning of the year, the ICRC provided four hospitals in the region with emergency medical material to cope with the injured. Ad hoc assistance was later given to displaced Chechens in North Ossetia and in Kabardino-Balkaria, while military hospitals in Nalchik, Mozdok and Kislovodsk received emergency assistance for the war-wounded.

As in 1998, the ICRC provided financial and material support throughout the year for the visiting nurses programme managed by local branches of the Russian Red Cross in eight republics and two districts. Under the programme, elderly and house-bound people were visited in their homes by a network of 160 nurses who dispensed medical care, hot meals and food parcels. The ICRC also supported the social welfare programmes of nine Russian Red Cross branch committees with food and non-food items. The social welfare programme was suspended after the May kidnapping, and the visiting nurses' programme came to an abrupt halt in Chechnya at the end of October.

Under the coordination of the Moscow delegation, ICRC field officers throughout the northern Caucasus continued to promote knowledge of humanitarian law among the armed forces. Seminars were given to troops from the Ministries of the Interior and Defence and to border guards.

IN 1999 THE ICRC:



- delivered 132 Red Cross messages from Chechnya to other destinations, mainly in the CIS countries, and forwarded 104 messages to Chechnya for distribution by the local Red Cross;



- contributed 275 tonnes of relief supplies (comprising one food parcel, one hygiene kit and 5 kg of wheat flour per person) to the social welfare programmes of eight Russian Red Cross committees in the republics, for monthly distributions to 4,164 vulnerable people;
- distributed 29 tonnes of relief supplies for 6,000 beneficiaries every three months in the Krasnodar and Stavropol districts;
- distributed 3.4 tonnes of relief supplies every six months in Kalmykia for 1,600 beneficiaries;
- in Chechnya, supplied 1,530 tonnes of wheat flour for the bread programme, enabling 12,000 beneficiaries to collect 12 loaves of bread per month from State bakeries;
- in Chechnya, provided direct assistance to 1,000 beneficiaries in institutions such as orphanages, psychiatric hospitals and homes for the elderly, as well as to the most vulnerable groups;
- following fighting along the border between Daghestan and Chechnya and within Chechnya, provided relief supplies to some 27,000 displaced people in Daghestan;
- distributed emergency supplies including food parcels, jerry cans and kitchen sets to 2,320 beneficiaries after Daghestan was hit by earthquakes;
- in Ingushetia, assisted 143,000 internally displaced people from Chechnya in 24 different localities, distributing relief supplies that included 33,672 family parcels, 364 tonnes of wheat flour, 30 tonnes of high-protein biscuits, 37,273 hygiene kits, 59,146 blankets;
- carried out one-off food and non-food distributions to the psychiatric hospital in Psedakh in Ingushetia for 300 beneficiaries;



- immediately after the bomb explosion in Vladikavkaz, provided four hospitals with enough emergency medical material (dressing and suture sets, intravenous fluids) to treat 180 war-wounded;
- supported the visiting nurses programme run by local Red Cross committees, under which 2,304 beneficiaries received home care;
- provided large quantities of testing material and blood bags for the blood bank in Grozny;



- supplied equipment for the water-distribution network in Grozny, thus allowing 50,000 inhabitants to be provided with clean water daily until November;

EASTERN EUROPE *NORTHERN CAUCASUS*



- held 86 seminars on humanitarian law for 8,898 members of the armed and security forces;
- held seminars on humanitarian law for adults and young people across the northern Caucasus, reaching 772 people;
- organized three exhibitions in the towns of Cherkessk, Krasnodar and Stavropol on international humanitarian law and the history of the ICRC, the Movement, and its activities; another exhibition, entitled "Humanity in War" attracted over 9,000 people – the exhibitions were aimed at secondary school pupils, students from vocational colleges and law faculties, and servicemen from the various military units deployed in the northern Caucasus;
- as part of the schools programme coordinated by the Moscow regional delegation, held 13 seminars for 705 teachers, and visited 107 schools in Kabardino-Balkaria, Karachayevo-Cherkesskaya, Kalmykia, Daghestan, Ingushetia and North Ossetia.

SOUTHERN CAUCASUS ARMENIA AND AZERBAIJAN

ARMENIA AND AZERBAIJAN

ARMENIA

PROTECTION

390,697

ASSISTANCE

1,574,729

PREVENTIVE ACTION

558,114

COOPERATION WITH THE NATIONAL SOCIETY

115,514

OVERHEADS

159,053

GENERAL

369,710

TOTAL EXPENDITURE Sfr 3,167,816

AZERBAIJAN

PROTECTION

348,551

ASSISTANCE

2,456,096

PREVENTIVE ACTION

591,222

COOPERATION WITH THE NATIONAL SOCIETY

50,248

OVERHEADS

228,232

GENERAL

455,690

TOTAL EXPENDITURE Sfr 4,130,038



The year under review saw little progress towards a settlement in the 10-year-old dispute between Armenia and Azerbaijan over Nagorno Karabakh. The 1994 cease-fire was generally respected, but a permanent solution to the conflict remained elusive, as fresh proposals made by the OSCE Minsk group failed to bring the parties closer to a definitive settlement. High unemployment and the consequences of the crisis in Russia caused Armenian living standards to deteriorate even further. A new government, elected in June, approved a plan to reduce the budget deficit, while negotiations with the IMF* and the World Bank continued. These tentative steps towards economic reform were overshadowed by the assassination in October of the prime minister and several other political figures. In Azerbaijan, hopes that leading oil companies would continue to tap reserves in the Caspian Sea were dashed when two large petroleum consortia were disbanded, and acts of sabotage blocked the pipeline through Chechnya to the Black Sea.

In keeping with its mandate, the ICRC focused in Armenia and Nagorno Karabakh on access to and protection of persons held in relation to the conflict, while

* IMF: International Monetary Fund

unresolved tracing requests

in Azerbaijan negotiations were pursued with the authorities on visits to security detainees. Tuberculosis continued to ravage the prison population throughout the region. Concerned about the scope of the problem and the threat it implied for the population at large, ICRC doctors worked together with the Azeri and Armenian authorities to bring the situation under control.

Many families still had no information about relatives who had disappeared during the conflict. The delegations in Baku and Yerevan and the Stepanakert office in Nagorny Karabakh pursued their efforts to ascertain the fate of more than 2,500 people who were still missing. The ICRC repeatedly raised the matter with the relevant authorities, reminded them of their responsibilities towards the families concerned, and intervened in specific cases. Delegates also maintained contact with the families of the missing and with the organizations representing them.

In Armenia and Azerbaijan, delegates continued to collect new tracing requests for people reported missing. As had been the case during the years of conflict, Red Cross messages were often the only means of communication, especially between detainees visited by the ICRC and their families.

access to detainees

Throughout the year, the ICRC visited persons held in relation to the conflict in Armenia, Azerbaijan and Nagorny Karabakh. By the end of September, all persons visited by the ICRC in Azerbaijan in this connection had been released and repatriated. In Armenia and Nagorny Karabakh, the ICRC was also able to visit security detainees. In Azerbaijan, however, negotiations with the authorities to gain access to security detainees had made little progress by year's end.

switching the focus to longer-term objectives

To promote agricultural rehabilitation and stimulate the local economy throughout the region, the ICRC continued its vegetable, potato, and wheat seed distribution programmes. By and large, the food security situation had improved to the point where the ICRC was able, as planned, to terminate its programmes in November. Activities shifted towards long-term objectives rather than direct distributions of food supplies. To reflect this new slant, information sessions were held for farmers in Armenia and Nagorny Karabakh on topics such as natural pest control, crop rotation and fertilization techniques.

In March, a new public health care programme, delegated to the American Red Cross, was launched in Nagorny Karabakh. The programme's principal objectives included the establishment of a basic health information system, the rehabilitation of selected health centres and polyclinics, and the training of health authorities in management skills and data analysis. One crucial, time-consuming component of the programme was the adaptation of national guidelines for the diagnosis and treatment of the 10 most prevalent diseases in the area. The inception of the new public health care programme meant that the highly successful ICRC medical assistance programme to 16 health centres in the north-eastern and southern Hadrut and Mardakert regions was ended in March as planned.

Work continued to alert populations living in front-line areas in Nagorny Karabakh to the dangers of mines and unexploded ordnance. ICRC mine-awareness activities over the year focused on preventive rather than emergency assistance, and a brochure explaining this change was produced in English and Armenian and distributed to the media. Over 50,000 mines of various types were laid during the conflict, and a preliminary survey showed that the region had one of the world's highest

*mine-awareness
in Nagorny Karabakh*

tackling tuberculosis

rehabilitating the war-disabled

*promoting knowledge
of humanitarian law*

rates of mine-blast injury. A mine-awareness programme was launched in March, and a working group made up of representatives of the Ministries of Defence, Health and the Interior, various NGOs and the ICRC was set up in Stepanakert. The group met monthly to establish ways of increasing mine-awareness and reducing mine-related casualties. A mine-awareness delegate undertook a six-week mission to help implement and develop the programme, while a centralized system of gathering data on all mine incidents affecting the civilian population was put in place at the beginning of the year. The system involved the use of a reporting form developed by the ICRC and the United Nations Mine Action Working Group. The new reporting system functioned well and revealed the extent to which the incidence of mine-related injuries had been underreported in the past.

In Azerbaijan, the school mine-awareness training programme was extended to include schools in occupied areas and classes for the internally displaced throughout the country. Information and training seminars were held for teachers and members of NGOs.

Given the magnitude of the tuberculosis (TB) problem in Armenian prisons, the ICRC continued to work with the authorities with a view to setting up a treatment programme. It assessed the prevalence of TB in two prison colonies, and presented the results and recommendations to representatives of the Ministry of Internal Affairs.

In Azerbaijan, the ICRC maintained its treatment programme in a prison compound for TB patients, Penal Colony No. 3, run by the Ministry of Justice in Baku. Since the inception of the programme in 1995, the ICRC has been responsible for the quality of the treatment, for providing technical assistance to facilitate proper implementation of WHO's recommended DOTS* strategy, and for exercising strict control over the use of the TB medicines it provided. The cooperation agreement between the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Justice and the ICRC expired on 11 August, although the ICRC continued to supply DOTS medicines and laboratory supplies and to support the treatment of patients already included in the programme, until the end of the year, under the supervision of the coordinator of the ICRC TB programme for the southern Caucasus.

In cooperation with the Azeri Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, work continued at the ICRC prosthetic/orthotic centre for war amputees in Baku. ICRC specialists held training courses for local staff, fitted patients with prostheses, orthoses and crutches free of charge, and paid transport costs to the centre for those who could not afford to do so.

The ICRC pursued its brief to spread knowledge of humanitarian law. Azeri translations of the Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols were presented to the authorities in August, and the ICRC's Advisory Service commented on the draft penal code and proposed changes to ensure that it was in line with humanitarian law, particularly with regard to war crimes; comments were presented to the authorities in December. In Armenia, the ICRC submitted a translation into Armenian of the Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols to the Vice President of the Constitutional Court.

* DOTS: Directly observed treatment, short course strategy

armed forces

In April, the ICRC organized a course on the incorporation of humanitarian law into national legislation for lawyers from several government bodies in Azerbaijan. At the end of the year, the Armenian Association of International Law and the ICRC held a conference on the implementation of humanitarian law that was attended by representatives of the judiciary, the Ministries of Defence, Foreign Affairs and the Interior, Yerevan State University and the ICRC's Moscow delegation. Topics on the conference agenda included the incorporation of humanitarian law into the Armenian penal code, national measures of implementation in CIS countries, and the International Criminal Court.

Courses on the law of armed conflict were organized regularly in 1999 for the armed forces in Azerbaijan and Nagorny Karabakh. Presentations were given to units under the jurisdiction of the Ministries of the Interior and Defence in Azerbaijan, while texts were distributed to all military regiments in Nagorny Karabakh. In Armenia, senior officers attended a training session for instructors. Officers who participated in a similar session in 1998 subsequently introduced the law of armed conflict to recruits, using ICRC reference texts as a basis for their courses.

For the third consecutive year, the Armenian Ministry of Defence and the ICRC continued to cooperate under an agreement making humanitarian law part of military training. Contacts were maintained with the head of the Azeri military academy for senior officers, who confirmed that this body of law had been incorporated into the compulsory curriculum, as part of the component in courses given by the Academy's Humanitarian Department and in its module on NATO.

The ICRC continued to foster contacts with university lecturers and students, with a view to the incorporation of humanitarian law into the curricula of leading academic institutions, in particular law and journalism faculties. The International Relations Faculty at Yerevan University inaugurated a 48-hour humanitarian law course for 20 graduate students, using the Armenian translation of an ICRC publication on humanitarian law as a textbook. The university also hosted a conference on the teaching of humanitarian law, organized by the Armenian Association of International Law and the ICRC for members of law, history and political science faculties. In Nagorny Karabakh, ICRC publications on humanitarian law were distributed to six universities, and in December, a group of students from Baku University spent a training period at the delegation. They gained insight into ICRC activities in Azerbaijan and around the world, the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, and humanitarian law. In May, a professor and three students from the High Diplomatic College participated in the De Martens International Moot Court competition organized by the ICRC in Minsk.

In January, a cooperation agreement was signed with the Armenian Red Cross covering tracing, dissemination and information, emergency-preparedness and relief programmes. Armenian Red Cross branches set up a dissemination network, with the ICRC providing financial and technical support.

With the help of the Red Cross/Red Crescent Movement, the Armenian Red Cross organized a number of events to inform the public of its activities. Two such events included a first-aid competition held in Yerevan in June, and a demonstration of a mountain rescue, held on the 140th anniversary of the Battle of Solferino. Three workshops were organized during the year to train staff from 10 local Red Cross

dissemination in academic circles

cooperation with National Societies

branches. The presentations covered basic aspects of humanitarian law, protected categories of people, and dissemination activities, methods and procedures. When the head of the National Society branches in the Gegharkunik and Tavush regions indicated a need for humanitarian assistance in north-eastern villages, the ICRC and the Armenian Red Cross carried out a joint assessment of the situation. By year's end, three projects - the rehabilitation of the water supply system in Verin Chambarak (Gegharkunik), of an irrigation system in Kirants village (Tavush), and the renovation of the first floor of a kindergarten in Vazashen had been completed.

In Azerbaijan, regular coordination meetings were held with the National Society and the Federation. The ICRC continued to provide training and material support for the tracing service of the Azeri Red Crescent Society, which re-established family links in cases unconnected with the Nagorny Karabakh conflict and helped families keep in touch by means of Red Cross messages.

Karabakhi rescue workers attended a 64-hour training course given by the Armenian Red Cross. The course was financed by the ICRC, and included topics such as basic mine clearance and rescue work in the event of a disaster.

IN 1999 THE ICRC:



- visited 54 detainees held for conflict-related reasons in Armenia, Azerbaijan and Nagorny Karabakh;
- regularly visited 19 detainees held for security reasons in Armenia;
- visited 22 places of detention in Armenia and Azerbaijan;



- opened eight new tracing requests relating to people who went missing in relation to the conflict;
- handled 4,516 Red Cross messages exchanged between detainees and their next-of-kin;



- under the agronomy programme in Armenia, distributed 3,300 vegetable seed kits and information leaflets to some 11,200 people;
- provided spare parts for the repair of 21 combine harvesters and 38 tractors, for 10,500 beneficiaries in Nagorny Karabakh;
- supplied livestock for 421 families in eight villages in Nagorny Karabakh;
- until the agronomy programme ended in November, distributed 2,200 vegetable seed kits and 18.8 tonnes of seed potatoes to 9,200 beneficiaries in Nagorny Karabakh, wheat seed and eight tonnes of fertilizers and pesticides;



- completed repairs on 18 health facilities in the Martouni region of Nagorny Karabakh; these facilities provided 23,000 people with primary health care and maternity services;
- until August, integrated an average of 366 new patients per month in the ICRC-run TB treatment programme in Baku prison hospital;



- at the ICRC centre for amputees in Baku, manufactured 442 prostheses, 109 orthoses and 769 pairs of crutches, and fitted 196 patients with artificial limbs;



- in Azerbaijan, gave eight presentations on international humanitarian law to military personnel;
- conducted a dissemination seminar for 20 members of the teaching staff of the Armenian Military Academy;
- in Armenia, gave a two-day presentation on humanitarian law as part of a human rights seminar for 30 participants;
- distributed 3,050 ICRC supplementary textbooks relating to humanitarian law for fifth-grade pupils in Nagorny Karabakh, and 217 teachers' manuals; in both Armenia and Azerbaijan, the sixth-grade textbooks were tested in schools;



- developed mine-awareness programmes in schools for displaced children and other schools in Azerbaijan, including Nagorny Karabakh;
- held training seminars on mine-awareness for 6,207 teachers and 511 members of NGOs;
- distributed 50,000 exercise books, helping to alert people to the dangers of land-mines.

SOUTHERN CAUCASUS GEORGIA

GEORGIA

PROTECTION

1,307,910

ASSISTANCE

9,794,530

PREVENTIVE ACTION

1,464,398

COOPERATION WITH THE NATIONAL SOCIETY

139,655

OVERHEADS

740,451

GENERAL

1,005,238

TOTAL EXPENDITURE Sfr 14,452,182



ICRC delegation ICRC sub-delegation ICRC presence Prosthetic/orthotic centre/workshop

In the course of 1999, Georgia pursued its quest for political and economic stability. Parliamentary elections in the autumn resulted in the re-election of the ruling party, and the country remained oriented towards full integration into European institutions and NATO. In April, Georgia was conditionally accepted for membership of the Council of Europe, and it joined the World Trade Organization in October. The economic picture remained bleak, however, since Georgia still had not quite weathered the August 1998 storm in the Russian markets or its own financial crisis. The country's beleaguered economy received a much-needed boost with the arrival in April of the first oil supplies in Supsa from Baku, Azerbaijan.

Despite regular meetings between the two sides, no headway was made in the stalled Georgian-Abkhaz peace talks. Three contentious issues thwarted any progress towards a settlement: the political status of Abkhazia, the role of the CIS peacekeeping forces in the buffer zone along the Inguri river, and the conditions required for the safe return to Gali of 250,000 displaced people who had fled to western Georgia following the fighting in 1992/1993 and 1998.

Several thousand people nevertheless returned to the Gali region in early 1999, mainly to cultivate their fields, despite the absence of safety guarantees and in the face of opposition from government circles. In Gali, violent incidents such as mine blasts, assassination attempts and shootings continued to take a weekly toll of casualties. Meanwhile, living conditions in Abkhazia did not improve owing to the economic embargo imposed by Russia at the end of 1994, which had led to a disruption of the social welfare system. Unfettered crime and violence fomented further turmoil.

The conflict and the resulting upheaval in the northern Caucasus heightened tensions between Russia and Georgia. Over the year, Russian border guards were replaced by Georgians, and discussions continued on the removal of four Russian military bases located on Georgian soil. In November, relations between the two countries hit an all-time low when Russia accused Georgia of serving as a transit point for Chechen fighters, introduced visa requirements and sealed its southern borders.

Families separated as a result of the Georgian-Abkhaz conflict in 1992 and 1993 continued to exchange news through the extensive Red Cross message network. In the absence of postal services, this network often remained the only way for people living in Abkhazia to maintain contact with relatives in Georgia, the Russian Federation and other CIS countries. A delegate was flown by UN helicopter to the isolated Kodori valley in the mountainous north of Abkhazia, and was therefore able to restore the Red Cross message network there. Since the only road to this region had been destroyed, no Red Cross messages had reached or come out of the valley for the previous two years.

Members of families separated by the conflict continued to request ICRC assistance in reuniting them. Reunification mostly concerned elderly people living on their own in Abkhazia who wished to spend their remaining years with their relatives.

Vulnerable people, particularly those of Georgian and Russian origin in Abkhazia, remained a source of deep concern. The ICRC closely observed the situation of these non-Abkhaz minorities, particularly in the Gali and Ochamchira regions in southern Abkhazia, where they were often the targets of violent criminal attacks.

ICRC delegates carried out visits to people detained throughout Georgia and Abkhazia, and comprehensive reports on detention centres in both regions were submitted to the relevant authorities. The ICRC continued to negotiate with the Abkhaz authorities for the allocation of more funds to meet detainees' basic material needs. In December, it obtained a written authorization from the Prosecutor General and the Minister of Internal Affairs, granting it unrestricted access to detainees and detention centres in Abkhazia. Until then, the ICRC had only had a verbal authorization to visit detainees.

Hostage-taking remained chronic on both the Georgian and Abkhaz sides of the frontline and continued to preoccupy the ICRC, at times becoming an issue that had significant political overtones. As in the past, the ICRC reminded the authorities that under international humanitarian law it was the State's responsibility to put an end to this practice.

As in previous years, the ICRC ran food assistance programmes that gave full or partial food coverage to a targeted segment of the population. In addition, the

Red Cross messages reach Kodori

people deprived of their freedom

*relief programmes concentrate
on Abkhazia*

tuberculosis programme a success

medical assistance

agronomy programme provided farming inputs and technical support to rural families who no longer received food assistance. At the beginning of the year, the ICRC redefined its criteria so as to target beneficiaries more accurately. In conjunction with the Abkhaz authorities, programmes were monitored and evaluated throughout the year.

As in 1998, the community kitchen programme delegated to the Finnish Red Cross provided vulnerable people in urban locations in Abkhazia with one hot meal a day, while home visits were carried out jointly by ICRC/Finnish Red Cross teams and the local authorities. The Red Cross home assistance programme, delegated to the Swedish Red Cross, continued to send a helper to visit elderly housebound beneficiaries, who were given basic hygienic care and a hot meal provided either by one of the Finnish Red Cross community kitchens or by the Spanish branch of Action Against Hunger canteens.

The partial assistance programme covered 30 percent of basic food needs for urban dwellers who were deemed eligible for such help by the ICRC and the Abkhaz authorities, while the destitute assistance programme was implemented by the ICRC's local field officers, who made distributions every three months to the most vulnerable beneficiaries in rural areas. The fact that the distributions were carried out by field officers gave the ICRC invaluable information on people from ethnic minorities who required follow-up from protection staff.

Food preservation kits were distributed in rural areas to beneficiaries and their families to help them contribute towards their own food security.

As tuberculosis remained the main health problem in Georgian prisons, ICRC medical teams, working together with the Ministry of Health and with the administrative authorities responsible for the prison system, continued their efforts to fight the epidemic.¹⁴ By year's end, the tuberculosis programme in Georgia was considered a qualified success - the problem of tuberculosis in the penitentiary system was tackled as a whole, since the ICRC was given access to all prisons. A national tuberculosis programme based on the WHO-recommended DOTS strategy began in selected pilot areas, and the cure rate for the penal population was considered satisfactory. In Georgia, the ICRC worked on the basis of early detection of cases and the prompt transfer of infectious patients to a tuberculosis colony hospital, where they were isolated for the full term of their treatment. A health education campaign was established whereby patients were informed about the dangers of the disease before being included in the programme. Those who, post-treatment, received a clean bill of health and were about to leave the penal system, were informed as to how the disease was transmitted. Health education sessions were also held for patients' families and for guards and administrative personnel.

The ICRC continued to provide medical supplies to facilities treating war-related casualties and other emergency surgical cases. It also made an ad hoc distribution of surgical assistance to Russian peacekeeping forces in Abkhazia. Following a visit by the health delegate, first-aid assistance was provided to Gali hospital. Until 1999, this hospital had had no surgeons, and most cases had been transferred across the security zone to Zugdidi hospital for treatment. During the year under review, how-

¹⁴ See the ICRC's 1998 Annual Report, p. 238.

Chechen refugees

tribute to the 50th anniversary of the Geneva Conventions

promoting international humanitarian law

humanitarian law in universities and schools

ever, surgeons began operating at the hospital, and the ICRC decided to provide assistance for surgical emergencies.

In early December, the Georgian Ministry of Health requested ICRC assistance for Chechens who had arrived in Georgia. The ICRC subsequently delivered three batches of medical and surgical supplies to a hospital in Tbilisi. In mid-December, ICRC delegates carried out an assessment of the needs of 5,000 refugees arriving from the Chechen republic in the Pankissi valley in eastern Georgia. A comprehensive programme was subsequently launched for the construction of communal latrines, bathing and washing areas, and a water-supply system for the village of Jokholo.

To mark the 50th anniversary of the Geneva Conventions, members of the Georgian Red Cross and ICRC delegates climbed to the summit of a 4,000-metre hitherto unnamed mountain in the Great Caucasus. Red Cross and Red Crescent flags were planted, the summit was baptized "Geneva Conventions Peak" and the event was registered by cartographers of the Georgia Mountaineering Federation. Georgia had been selected as one of the countries for the ICRC's "People on War" project,¹⁵ and in-depth interviews were conducted with persons involved on both sides of the Georgian-Abkhaz conflict.

Efforts continued to spread knowledge of and improve compliance with humanitarian law. The study of the Georgian penal code in the light of humanitarian law was finalized and handed over to the relevant authorities in Tbilisi. Work also continued on the revision of the translation of the Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols.

The ICRC regional delegate for the armed and security forces in the southern Caucasus established initial contacts with the Abkhaz armed forces and police officers on combat missions in Abkhazia, with a view to obtaining more systematic instruction in the law of armed conflict and ultimately making it an integral part of military training. The delegate gave a presentation on the incorporation of the law of armed conflict in combat training for high-ranking officers of the Abkhaz Ministry of Defence.

The inclusion of humanitarian law in the curricula of faculties of law, international relations and journalism remained a priority. To this end, ICRC delegates gave three presentations at three different institutions of higher education in Tbilisi. By December, five humanitarian law courses were being taught in four Georgian universities, three Georgian university lecturers had participated in a seminar organized by the Moscow delegation on this body of law, and ICRC texts on humanitarian law had been published in the national language.

Work also continued on the schools programme, carried out in cooperation with the Ministry of Education. The seventh-grade textbook was distributed in the autumn in eastern and western Georgia. Teaching materials were also distributed, and seminars were held for teachers.

The ICRC kept up its support for a youth programme designed to raise young people's awareness of the organization and humanitarian law. Nine information sessions were held in western Georgia and Abkhazia for pupils in their final years of secondary school, and five regional field officers took part in a training week on humanitarian law and presentation techniques.

¹⁵ See pp. 348-350.

*cooperation
with the National Society*

In cooperation with the Federation, the ICRC maintained its technical and financial support for the dissemination, tracing and information services of the Red Cross Society of Georgia. From March onwards, the head of the Georgian Red Cross Dissemination Department and ten regional instructors conducted seminars for secondary school pupils in Tbilisi and ten other regions, and another Red Cross branch was set up in the Samtshe-Djavakheti region of Georgia.

A tracing seminar for regional tracing officers was held in November. The seminar's primary purpose was to assess tracing activities in the regions where the Red Cross message network had been established, particularly in Ajaria, and to draw up a blueprint for the Georgian Red Cross tracing service for the year 2000. At the end of November, the head of the tracing service participated in the ICRC's annual tracing round table in Moscow.

In a move to stamp out misuse of the red cross emblem, a mobile team of Red Cross Youth volunteers approached pharmacists in all ten districts of Tbilisi and received permission to repaint the red cross signs used by them in green.

IN 1999 THE ICRC:



- conducted regular visits to 173 detainees (including 26 registered for the first time) in 39 places of detention run by the Georgian authorities;
- regularly visited 27 detainees (including 14 registered for the first time) in 9 places of detention run by the Abkhaz authorities;



- in Georgia, collected 10,136 Red Cross messages and distributed 12,154 messages;
- collected 10,622 Red Cross messages and distributed 9,427 in Abkhazia;
- reunited 27 persons with their families (this mainly involved transfers of people from Abkhazia to other areas of Georgia, the Russian Federation or Ukraine);



- in Abkhazia, provided some 20,000 beneficiaries in 19 towns and 1,200 beneficiaries in 32 villages with wheat flour, sugar, vegetable oil, yeast, soap and individual parcels every three months;
- supplied 1,533 tonnes of food for the 19 canteens run by the Finnish Red Cross in Abkhazia, which provided about 5,570 people with one hot meal per day;
- helped 845 elderly housebound people in Abkhazia through the Swedish Red Cross home assistance programme;
- as part of the agronomy programme, distributed 439 tonnes of fertilizer and pesticides to beneficiaries in 20 villages;

SOUTHERN CAUCASUS GEORGIA



- assisted five surgical facilities in western Georgia and Abkhazia;
- with the support of the Hellenic Red Cross, assisted three polyclinics and a dispensary in the Sukhumi district by providing medical supplies;
- provided treatment to 862 patients enrolled since June 1998 in the ICRC-run tuberculosis treatment programme for detainees in Tbilisi;
- fitted 463 new patients and produced 623 prostheses and 393 orthoses at its centres for war amputees in Tbilisi and Gagra (Abkhazia);
- delivered three batches of medical and surgical supplies to Tbilisi Hospital No. 5, for persons who had arrived from Chechnya;
- gave medical supplies to the Chatili health centre;



- completed repairs on the Geguti 10 and the Sagarejo 3 penal colonies, and the conversion of two rooms into a laboratory at the penitentiary hospital Respublika 15;
- in June, began repairs to improve hygiene conditions in the Rustavi 1 colony;
- finished rehabilitation work in the Ksani 9 prison for tuberculosis patients;
- launched a programme for the construction of 50 communal latrines, two bath houses, two washing areas and a water supply for Jokholo, to cope with the arrival of 5,000 Chechen refugees;



- in cooperation with Georgian national television, produced a 30-minute documentary designed to raise awareness of the activities of the Georgian Red Cross;



- carried out the consultation phase of the "People on War" project, during which 1,000 people in Georgia and Abkhazia were asked to share their experiences and opinions on limits in war;
- published 70,000 copies of the Georgian version of the seventh-grade school textbook and 17,000 teachers' manuals; held 75 training seminars for 514 teachers in 75 regions;
- held seven seminars on humanitarian law and Red Cross themes for representatives of the authorities, university and high school students, and the armed forces;
- held 16 information sessions for potential bearers of weapons, reaching 564 teenagers in their last years of compulsory schooling in Abkhazia;
- conducted one dissemination session for 35 customs officials stationed at border posts.

WASHINGTON

Regional delegation
(Canada, United States)

*focus on the promotion
of humanitarian law*

*liaising with international
organizations*

The year under review saw the regional delegation step up its contacts with members of the United States government, largely in connection with the Kosovo conflict and subsequent NATO air strikes in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. Discussions were held, for example, with staff of the National Security Council concerning humanitarian aid during the crisis. In addition, the regional delegation gave numerous interviews to the US media when the ICRC resumed its activities in Kosovo.

Cooperation between the Washington regional delegation and the American Red Cross Society was close throughout the year. The American Red Cross was instrumental in helping to obtain a Presidential Statement to mark the 50th anniversary of the Geneva Conventions and a Congressional Resolution on the subject. In December, the ICRC's Director of Operations met with US government officials and with the new president of the American Red Cross and her senior advisor.

In Canada, the regional delegation kept up a constant dialogue with the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Defense, and with the Canadian International Development Agency. For the second year running, the ICRC seconded a delegate experienced in dissemination and communication techniques to the Canadian Red Cross Society.

The focus of the regional delegation's activities nevertheless remained the promotion of international humanitarian law. To this end, delegates gave presentations on humanitarian law at the Inter-American Defense College in Washington, the US National Defense University, the Naval War College in Newport, and the Canadian International Peacekeeping Training Centre in Nova Scotia.

Part of the delegation's role was to liaise with international organizations, in particular with the OAS.* Discussions with OAS representatives focused on increasing understanding and support for ICRC operations and its work to promote humanitarian law in Latin America. In March, the ICRC President presented a report on the promotion of and respect for international humanitarian law to the OAS Permanent Council's Committee on Political and Juridical Affairs. On that occasion, the President reiterated his call for States and intergovernmental organizations to renew their humanitarian commitment by adhering to treaties to which they were not yet party, such as the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court and the Ottawa treaty banning landmines. The ICRC also took part in the OAS General Assembly in Guatemala City, which adopted a resolution supporting ICRC activities and respect for humanitarian law. The OAS and the regional delegation made joint arrangements for a humanitarian law seminar held for diplomats in Washington and gave lectures on the law of armed conflict at courses organized by the OAS Secretariat's legal department in Rio de Janeiro and Panama.

The regional delegation also strengthened its working relations with its principal contacts in the World Bank, and took part in the 1999 World Bank/IMF annual meeting, a Harvard/OCHA* seminar on protected areas, and the annual meeting of the American Society of International Law.

* OAS: Organization of American States

* OCHA: United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs

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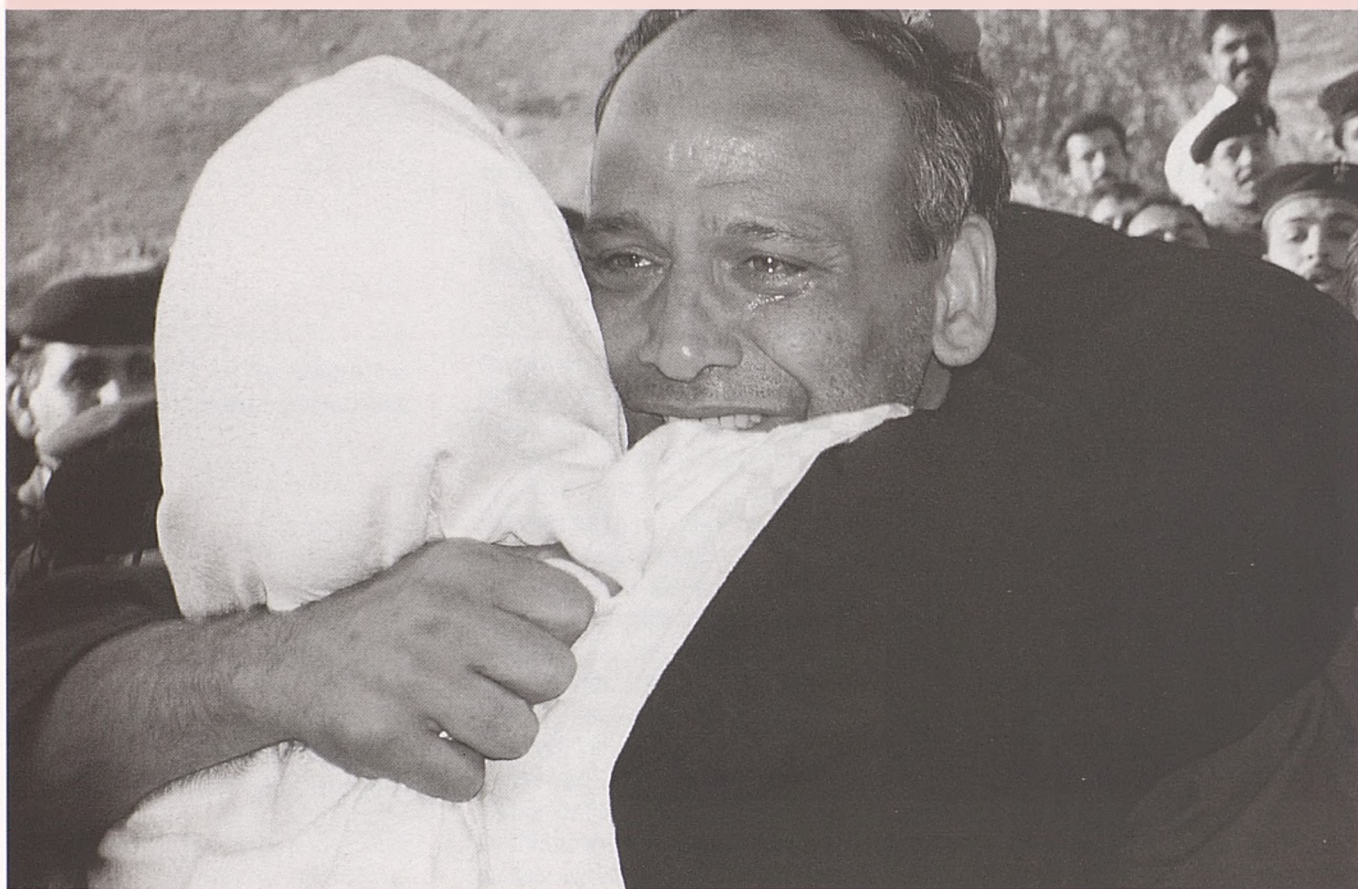
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MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

The Near East

ICRC delegations:

Israel, the occupied territories and the autonomous territories, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria

The Gulf

ICRC delegations:

Iraq, Yemen

ICRC regional delegation:

Kuwait

North Africa

ICRC delegation:

Egypt

ICRC regional delegation:

Tunis

Staff

ICRC expatriates¹: 80

National Societies¹: 5

Local employees²: 478

Total expenditure: Sfr 41,974,936.16

Expenditure breakdown:

Protection: 12,323,745.09

Assistance: 14,432,606.36

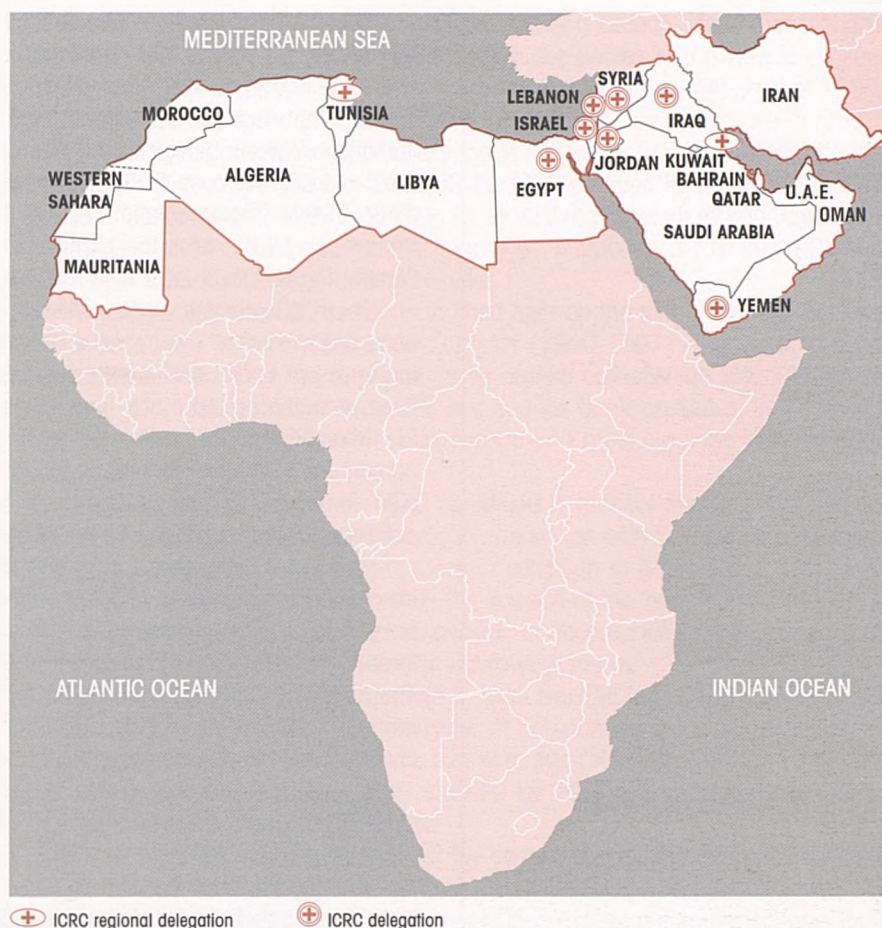
Preventive action: 5,145,204.65

Cooperation with National Societies:

3,320,107.26

Overheads: 2,525,312.00

General: 4,227,960.80



ICRC regional delegation



ICRC delegation

¹ Average figures calculated on an annual basis.

² Under ICRC contract, as at December 1999.

MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

Several countries in the Middle East and North Africa underwent significant transformations in 1999. In Morocco and Jordan, Hassan II and Hussein were succeeded on the throne by their sons; Algeria elected a new president, and Israel, Lebanon and Bahrain new governments. These transitions prompted a renewal of efforts to revitalize relations between countries and to relaunch political processes. This was most notably the case for the Arab-Israeli peace process, which had been stalled since 1997. Implementation of the 1998 Wye Plantation Agreement started in September 1999, after the signing of a supplementary agreement in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt. Direct talks also resumed between Syria and Israel in December.

The ICRC maintained its activities in aid of the Arab populations in the Israeli-occupied territories. The treatment of prisoners and the consequences in humanitarian terms of Israeli settlements were issues of major concern. In the ICRC's view, Israel remains bound by the provisions of the Fourth Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War of August 1949, until a final peace agreement consistent with international law is concluded on the status of the occupied territories. In the autonomous territories, the ICRC again regularly visited detainees at the invitation of the Palestinian Authority.

The year under review also saw the continuation of military operations of an international character in Iraq and in the context of the Arab-Israeli conflict in southern Lebanon; although low-intensity and not in the public eye, these operations continued to take their toll of human lives and to cause regular damage to infrastructure. The ICRC provided emergency assistance to civilian victims when necessary and reminded the parties of their obligation to take all necessary precautions to spare civilians and the objects essential to their survival.

In Iraq, the year was characterized by growing international awareness of the prevailing humanitarian situation and needs, but no progress was made at the diplomatic level in breaking the deadlock. The ICRC, for its part, stepped up its efforts to alleviate the plight of the civilian population, which had been living under international trade sanctions for almost a decade. The run-down state of much of the country's infrastructure and public services, in particular health care and water and sewage treatment, presented a growing health risk and prompted the ICRC to launch broad-ranging programmes in these fields.

In Algeria, the ICRC was able to resume visits in accordance with its customary procedures to all detainees in places of detention under the responsibility of the Ministry of Justice. This had been one of the organization's priority objectives since 1992, when visits were suspended. Acting on its longstanding and deep concern at the plight of the victims of the violence, the ICRC worked with the Algerian Red Crescent in setting up new, large-scale programmes to provide psychological assistance for traumatized women and children. It also helped the National Society to reinforce its capacity to spread knowledge of humanitarian law and to build up a national first-aid network.

Besides these new and highly visible activities, the ICRC spared no effort in its search for solutions to entrenched dilemmas long since passed over by the media spotlight, such as the issue of prisoners from past conflicts. The year witnessed little progress, for example, with regard to the Western Sahara. As in the past, the ICRC repeatedly expressed its concern about the plight of the over 1,800 Moroccan

MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

prisoners still detained by the Polisario Front nearly a decade after the end of active hostilities, and stepped up its representations to the parties with a view to a general repatriation of all prisoners, starting with the most vulnerable. At the end of 1999, it repatriated five Moroccan prisoners freed on humanitarian grounds.

Following the considerable progress made in 1998 towards resolving the issue of POWs from the Iran-Iraq war, in 1999 the ICRC pursued its interviews with Iraqi POWs in Iran with a view to repatriating those wishing to return to Iraq, and intensified its discussions with the authorities concerned. It repatriated 715 Iraqi POWs and 53 Iranian civilian detainees during the year.

The ICRC also pursued its efforts to shed light on the fate of persons who were still unaccounted for as a result of the Gulf war (1990-1991). Throughout the year, Iraq upheld its decision not to attend, in its current composition, the ICRC-chaired Tripartite Commission bringing together Iraq and the Coalition States. In the absence of a consensus, the ICRC continued to consult and meet regularly with the parties concerned.

In both Iraq and Kuwait, the ICRC continued to monitor the treatment and conditions of detention of people being held in connection with the Gulf war. ICRC delegates also continued their visits to places of detention in Bahrain and Jordan, and began visiting detainees in Qatar. With the support of the Yemen Red Crescent, the ICRC successfully negotiated renewed access, in accordance with its standard procedures, to all detainees in Yemen after a two-year hiatus.

As in the past, efforts were pursued to raise the ICRC's profile in the Arab world and to promote acceptance of the principles of humanitarian law in time of peace as much as in time of armed conflict. To that end, the ICRC Regional Promotion Office in Cairo produced a broad range of material for television and radio, designed to reach a vast Arabic-speaking audience.

The ICRC also took part throughout the year in numerous seminars and courses on humanitarian law, with the aim not just of teaching and promoting this body of law, but also of encouraging governments to introduce national measures for the implementation of their treaty obligations.

As in the past, cooperation with the region's National Societies comprised support and training to bolster their operational capacity in the areas of tracing, dissemination and relief. The organization continued its support for the Lebanese Red Cross and the "Palestine Red Crescent Society" emergency medical services. In Yemen, Egypt and Iraq, closer collaboration was achieved in the fields of dissemination and tracing.

ISRAEL, THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES AND THE AUTONOMOUS TERRITORIES

PROTECTION

6,897,101

ASSISTANCE

514,931

PREVENTIVE ACTION

1,487,405

COOPERATION WITH THE NATIONAL SOCIETY

1,742,875

OVERHEADS

775,757

GENERAL

1,474,982

TOTAL EXPENDITURE Sfr 12,893,051



In May 1999, Israelis elected a new Prime Minister and Knesset. On 4 September, an agreement supplementing the Wye Plantation Agreement of October 1998 was signed in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt. The new accord calls for further Israeli troop withdrawals from the West Bank and the release of hundreds of detainees. Implementation began with the release by Israel of 376 prisoners between September and the end of the year, and the opening of a safe passage between the Gaza Strip and the West Bank in October.

Following the appointment of the respective negotiation leaders, talks started in November on a final settlement to resolve issues such as the status of Jerusalem, the character of the Palestinian entity and its borders, Palestinian refugees and Israeli settlements in the occupied territories. However, a further Israeli redeployment in the West Bank did not take place as scheduled.

Another major development in the Middle East peace process was the resumption of direct talks between Israel and Syria, which had been at a standstill since 1996. On 15 and 16 December, the Israeli Prime Minister met with the Syrian Foreign Minister in Washington under the auspices of the President of the United

resumption of talks with Syria

applicability of the Fourth Geneva Convention

States. They agreed on a number of procedural issues and scheduled a further round of talks for January 2000.

Notwithstanding interim agreements concluded as part of the peace process, the ICRC considers that until a final agreement consistent with international law is reached on the status of the occupied territories, Israel remains bound by the provisions of the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949, in particular as regards the executive and administrative powers which that State actually exercises.

The Conference of the High Contracting Parties to the 1949 Geneva Conventions on measures to enforce the Fourth Geneva Convention in the occupied territories, convened by the United Nations General Assembly, took place in Geneva on 15 July. The Conference was adjourned after the reading by the representative of the Swiss government of a joint statement by all participating High Contracting Parties, reaffirming the applicability of the Convention.

For the ICRC, which has been working in the region since 1967, the treatment of detainees held outside the occupied territories, in violation of the Fourth Geneva Convention, and the humanitarian implications of the Israeli settlements continued to be matters of deep concern. The ICRC repeatedly called upon the Israeli government to comply with international humanitarian law and to take all necessary measures to put an end to violations of the Fourth Geneva Convention.

The civilian population protected by the Fourth Geneva Convention was again affected by serious humanitarian problems in 1999. Although on the whole there were fewer incidents between Palestinian civilians and Israeli forces or settlers than in previous years, the final months of 1999 saw a rise in tension. The expansion of existing colonies and the establishment of new ones, the construction of by-passes to isolated colonies and the confiscation of land continued, despite the removal of some of the settlements established after the signing of the Wye Plantation Agreement in 1998. The uprooting of olive trees and the forced transfer of Bedouin or seasonal farmers from the arid and semi-arid areas of the West Bank remained a source of deep concern.

In addition, the sealing off of the occupied territories, the occasional strict closures or curfews affecting certain localities, and restrictions on access to land and natural resources made life difficult for Palestinians. Obstacles placed in the way of access to the labour market and restrictions imposed on trade had an adverse effect on economic activity. Protected persons were also subjected throughout the year to other measures, such as the confiscation of identity papers and forcible transfers.

The ICRC did its utmost to improve the lot of civilians living in the occupied territories. Despite its representations to the Israeli government, it was unable to bring about full compliance with humanitarian law, and indeed reported a number of specific cases of violations of the Fourth Geneva Convention to the authorities.

In September 1999, the Israeli Supreme Court passed a landmark judgement prohibiting certain methods of interrogation used by the Israeli security agency and in the ICRC's view clearly contrary to the Geneva Conventions.

Throughout 1999, an average of 3,500 Palestinians were being held by the Israeli authorities at any one time; the rate of arrest remained unchanged at about 300 people per month, a quarter of them for security reasons. All Palestinian detainees were imprisoned in places of detention on Israeli territory, in violation of the Fourth Geneva Convention.

civilians in the occupied territories

decision by the Israeli Supreme Court

visits to detainees in Israel

The ICRC delegation pursued its traditional activities in favour of all detainees protected by the Fourth Geneva Convention. This included not just Palestinians, but also other persons detained by the Israeli authorities, among them Syrian nationals, including people from the Israeli-occupied Syrian Golan Heights, nationals of States that are at war with Israel or have no diplomatic relations with the country and persons detained in Khiam detention centre in occupied southern Lebanon.³

Over the year, the ICRC visited 25 different places of detention in Israel. It reported on its findings orally and in writing to the Israeli authorities, and made representations with a view to bringing about improvements in treatment and conditions of detention.

Particular attention continued to be paid to the treatment and conditions of detention of detainees under interrogation, who were visited on a regular basis. ICRC delegates closely monitored compliance by the Israeli security agency with the 6 September Supreme Court judgement that prohibited the use of certain methods of interrogation. In addition, a number of visits were organized to individual detainees with special humanitarian needs.

The ICRC noted a sharp decrease in the number of Palestinian detainees held in Israel for administrative reasons.

The ICRC was authorized for the first time in December to visit one of the two detained Lebanese nationals, who had been held by Israel since 1989. The ICRC was still denied access, in violation of the Fourth Geneva Convention, to the other detained Lebanese national, who had been held by Israel since 1994.

On 26 December 1999, five of the 21 Lebanese administrative detainees held in Israel as "bargaining chips" were released and repatriated to Lebanon. The fate of the 16 remaining detainees has been under review by the Supreme Court since the end of 1997. The ICRC considers this practice, which is tantamount to holding those detainees hostage, to be a violation of the Geneva Conventions and continued to make representations to the authorities with a view to having it stopped.

family visits programme

The ICRC continued to fund and organize, in cooperation with the "Palestine Red Crescent Society", family visits for Palestinian detainees held in Israeli prisons. The families, living in the West Bank, the Gaza Strip and Jerusalem, required assistance in obtaining authorization from the Israeli authorities to visit relatives being held on Israeli territory.

The ICRC also distributed parcels, provided by their families living in Lebanon, to Lebanese detainees and delivered handicrafts made by the Lebanese detainees to their families. At the end of November, the ICRC transmitted 19 video messages taped by Lebanese detainees held in Israel to their families in Lebanon.

At the request of the Palestinian Authority, the ICRC visited civilian and military places of detention in the autonomous territories.⁴ An average of 1,200 Palestinians were detained by the Palestinian Authority and held in various detention centres in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. In 1999, the ICRC expanded its visits to detainees both in Gaza and the West Bank to cover a total of 51 places of detention under the authority of the Police and the Security Services respectively. ICRC delegates

³ See pp. 309-310.

⁴ Visits are carried out in accordance with procedures set out in a Memorandum of Understanding signed with the Palestinian Authority in 1996, following the Oslo accord of 1993. See the ICRC's 1996 Annual Report, p. 235.

*detainees held
by the Palestinian Authority*

*medical activities
on behalf of detainees*

restoring family ties

occupied Syrian Golan Heights

neutral intermediary

occupied southern Lebanon

*repatriation
of detainees to Lebanon*

regularly visited these places of detention in order to assess the detainees' material and psychological conditions of detention.

The ICRC submitted recommendations orally and in writing to the Palestinian Authority and made representations with a view to bringing about improvements in the treatment of detainees and the conditions of detention.

At the beginning of September, the ICRC transmitted a report to the Palestinian authorities on the issue of basic judicial guarantees during arrest, in places of detention and in court proceedings.

An ICRC physician took part in four visits to Israeli interrogation centres, one visit to a high-security Israeli prison, three visits to the central hospital of the Israeli Prison Authority and 28 visits to places of detention under the Palestinian Authority. He observed developments in the hunger strike of 44 Palestinian administrative detainees in the northern part of the West Bank from January.

The ICRC worked with the Military Medical Service, which is responsible for health care in places of detention in Gaza and the West Bank, to organize three seminars on health care and medical ethics in relation to detainees for the Service's staff and representatives of the Palestinian security forces.

The ICRC kept up its extensive activities to restore and maintain family links for those affected by the consequences of the Arab-Israeli conflict, using its network of local offices throughout the occupied and the autonomous territories. It arranged for the exchange of Red Cross messages between dispersed family members, issued detention certificates required for administrative procedures and facilitated the movement of Palestinians and the Syrian population of the Golan Heights for various reasons.

For some thirty years, the major problem for the 13,000 or so Syrian nationals living on the Israeli-occupied Syrian Golan Heights has been separation from other family members. Through its delegations in Israel and Syria, the ICRC continued to provide assistance, in its capacity as a neutral intermediary, to civilians protected by the Fourth Geneva Convention. In particular, it facilitated the passage of people who had to cross the demarcation line for humanitarian reasons.

In 1999, the ICRC continued to act as a neutral intermediary between Israel and countries with which it had no diplomatic relations or peace agreements.

The situation in southern Lebanon remained volatile in 1999. Hostilities came to a head in May and June with rocket attacks on northern Israel and air raids over Lebanon. As a result of these incidents, eight people were killed and more than 20 wounded in Lebanon, and two people died and a number were wounded in northern Israel. Considerable damage was inflicted on civilian infrastructure in Lebanon, including bridges and power plants. In Israel, civilian homes were damaged.

The ICRC repeated its representations with a view to ensuring that the Lebanese armed groups, the Israeli forces, and the SLA* militia complied with humanitarian law and abided by the rules on the conduct of hostilities.

The ICRC oversaw the repatriation of three Lebanese detainees, after having ascertained in interviews in private that they did indeed wish to return to Lebanon.

In December, the ICRC, in its capacity as a neutral intermediary and at the request of all the parties concerned, organized the repatriation from southern

* SLA: South Lebanon Army

*retrieval and repatriation
of mortal remains*

*enhancing awareness
of humanitarian law*

"People on War" project

humanitarian law teaching project

cooperation within the Movement

Lebanon of the mortal remains of seven members of Lebanese armed groups, during a general cease-fire agreed upon for that purpose, so that they could be returned to their families.

In March, the ICRC held its first-ever dissemination session on humanitarian law for 30 junior officers and cadets from the School of Liaison and Coordination of the Israeli Armed Forces. These officers carried out their duties in the occupied territories and were therefore in direct contact with the Palestinian civilian population. Over the year, the ICRC also gave a number of presentations to senior staff from the Israeli Civil Administration (Matak).

One of the contexts chosen for the "People on War" project to mark the 50th anniversary of the Geneva Conventions was Israel, the occupied territories and the autonomous territories. In June, the ICRC, the "Magen David Adom" and the "Palestine Red Crescent Society" interviewed one thousand Israelis and Palestinians, randomly selected from different sectors of society, about their experience and opinions in terms of the limits in war.⁵

The ICRC set up a teaching project on humanitarian law and principles, intended for the emerging institutions of the Palestinian Authority, the local authorities, prison authorities, universities and the "Palestine Red Crescent Society".

The Israeli and Palestinian Education Boards confirmed their interest in participating and cooperating in the research and development phase of the "Exploring Humanitarian Law" project. Focus group discussions with Israeli students took place in November.

The ICRC continued to assume the role of lead agency for the Movement's activities in the occupied and the autonomous territories, pursuant to the Seville Agreement of 1997. It consulted regularly with its partners in the Movement working in the area, namely the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and the German, Netherlands and Australian Red Cross Societies.

In particular, the ICRC provided the logistical back-up for bilateral programmes run by the National Societies, such as the Netherlands Red Cross programme to provide medical assistance and training in seven hospitals and clinics run by the "Palestine Red Crescent Society" in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, and the Australian Red Cross Women's Development Project in Gaza. Efforts to facilitate dialogue and cooperation between the "Palestine Red Crescent Society" and the "Magen David Adom" continued in 1999.

The ICRC maintained its financial, technical, material and training support for the "Palestine Red Crescent Society" Emergency Medical Services (EMS), which serve all sick and wounded in the autonomous and the occupied territories, and for the development of the Society's dissemination activities, as set forth in an agreement signed between the two components of the Movement on 21 March.

In order to strengthen the emergency response capacity of EMS-performing branches, the "Palestine Red Crescent Society" received three fully-equipped ambulances and one intensive care unit vehicle.⁶ An ambulance sub-station was opened in Yata to cover the area south of Hebron, and an intensive information campaign was launched in Gaza to promote awareness of the service and, in particular, of the standard emergency telephone number.

⁵ See pp. 348-350.

⁶ The three ambulances were funded by ECHO (European Community Humanitarian Office), and the intensive care unit by Volkswagen.

"Palestine Red Crescent Society"

In consultation and close cooperation with the "Palestine Red Crescent Society", the Federation and the Netherlands Red Cross, the ICRC completed a survey of emergency rooms in all hospitals in the West Bank and Gaza, with a view to developing project proposals. The results were presented to the Palestinian Minister of Health and to the Deputy Minister of Planning and International Cooperation.

The ICRC also provided support for the activities of the "Palestine Red Crescent Society" dissemination department, which coordinated the efforts of the 18 Red Crescent branches to spread knowledge of humanitarian law. The delegation organized a number of workshops on communication and humanitarian law for regional dissemination coordinators and youth volunteers in Gaza and in Ramallah. It backed projects such as the "safety-at-home campaign", which had been put together in close cooperation with the Society's primary health care department.

Regular contact was maintained with the "Magen David Adom". The ICRC supplied it with emergency medical equipment after the June rocket attacks on northern Israel.

"Magen David Adom"

In October, a doctor from the "Magen David Adom" carried out an assessment of the blood transfusion system in Kosovo on behalf of the ICRC. Discussions were then held with the Society regarding the measures needed to improve the system, including concrete contributions by the "Magen David Adom" in the form of training courses.

ISRAEL AND THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES

IN 1999 THE ICRC:



- carried out 232 visits to 25 places of detention run by the Israeli authorities, during which it regularly saw 3,889 individuals protected by the Fourth Geneva Convention, talking to 772 of them in private for the first time;
- supervised the repatriation of three Lebanese detainees released by the Israeli authorities, after establishing in private interviews that they were returning of their own free will;
- issued, authenticated or copied 18,279 detention certificates;
- in cooperation with the "Palestine Red Crescent", organized 107,729 family visits to detainees;
- restored and maintained contact between detainees held in Israeli facilities and their families by forwarding 5,439 Red Cross messages;
- provided detainees with educational and recreational items; distributed 67 parcels with winter clothes to foreign detainees held in Israeli prisons;
- provided medical assistance, such as orthopaedic shoes and belts, and dental treatment for detainees;



- made representations to the relevant authorities to remind them of their obligations under the Fourth Geneva Convention as regards civilians in occupied territories;



- forwarded 566 Red Cross messages exchanged between residents of the occupied and the autonomous territories and their relatives abroad;
- supervised 8 handover operations, enabling 491 people to cross over from the Syrian Golan Heights to Syria; altogether, 16 handover operations enabling 980 people to cross the demarcation line to/from the Golan Heights were organized, in conjunction with the ICRC delegation in Syria;
- opened 12 new tracing requests;



- distributed material assistance (tents, stoves, blankets) to Bedouin families and home-owners whose dwellings had been destroyed;



- provided emergency medical equipment for the "Magen David Adom" in June;



- carried out the consultation phase of the "People on War" project, in active cooperation with the "Magen David Adom" and the "Palestine Red Crescent Society";
- distributed over 700 information kits to its contacts and the media, and organized a press conference in Gaza, to mark the 50th anniversary of the Geneva Conventions;
- held humanitarian law dissemination sessions for members of the Israeli armed forces.

THE AUTONOMOUS TERRITORIES



IN 1999 THE ICRC:

- visited 1,791 persons detained by the Palestinian security services, 719 of them for the first time, in 60 places of detention;
- provided the detainees with medical assistance and educational and recreational items;



- provided medical equipment (partly funded by ECHO) for "Palestine Red Crescent Society" ambulances and delivered tents, blankets and mattresses donated by the German Red Cross to EMS-performing branches; provided materials for EMS technical schools in the West Bank and Gaza;
- carried out four courses on child-to-child training for rehabilitation workers and "Palestine Red Crescent" youth volunteers, as a means of using children's creativity to spread knowledge of the Movement and its principles;
- organized two workshops on communication and one on humanitarian law for 40 "Palestine Red Crescent" dissemination coordinators in Gaza and in Ramallah respectively, and held training sessions in dissemination, interpersonal communication skills and presentation techniques for 20 youth volunteers;
- supported the "Palestine Red Crescent" dissemination department in developing and printing children's comic strips illustrating the Society's activities and how they reflect the Movement's Fundamental Principles.



- took part in two workshops in the West Bank and Gaza, organized by the Palestinian Board of Higher Education, and provided reference material on humanitarian law;
- held humanitarian law dissemination sessions for members of the Palestinian security services and military medical staff.

visits to detainees

restoring family ties

The Hashemite Kingdom was marked in early 1999 by the death of King Hussein and the accession of his son Abdullah to the throne. The year also saw improved relations between Jordan and the Gulf States, and the re-establishment of diplomatic ties with Kuwait. At home, Jordanians continued to suffer the consequences of chronic water shortages, high unemployment and the region's various crises. Over the last decades Jordan has absorbed large numbers of refugees, in particular Palestinians. Syria, meanwhile, donated 8 million cubic metres of water to Jordan to help it overcome the effects of drought.

As in the past, the ICRC's activities in the Kingdom covered the following areas: visits to places of detention, restoration and maintenance of family ties between families in Jordan and their relatives living in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, dissemination of humanitarian law, and cooperation with the Jordan National Red Crescent Society.

The delegation in the Jordanian capital continued to act as the logistics base for the ICRC's activities in Iraq.

For the past twenty years the ICRC has monitored the conditions of detention and treatment of detainees under interrogation and those held in Jordanian civilian and military places of detention. In late December 1998, it had suspended its fortnightly visits to security detainees held for interrogation by the General Intelligence Directorate. It subsequently received confirmation that the visits could take place in accordance with ICRC standard procedures, and the visits resumed on 8 May.

Regular visits were also carried out to places of detention under the responsibility of the Public Security Directorate, barring a hiatus from the end of September to the end of October. On 24 October, after high-level discussions with the Jordanian authorities, the ICRC was once again allowed to hold private interviews with detainees held in these facilities. In addition, special visits were undertaken to women and juvenile detainees. A report was handed over to the authorities summarizing the ICRC's observations and recommendations regarding the situation of women in detention. ICRC delegates also regularly visited the correction and rehabilitation centre run by the Military Intelligence Directorate.

The ICRC continued its activities in aid of Palestinian and some Jordanian families with relatives held in Israel. It forwarded official personal documents and urgent messages between Palestinians in the occupied and the autonomous territories and their families in Jordan. In cooperation with the Jordanian Red Crescent, it facilitated ambulance transfers of urgent medical cases between the West Bank and Jordan. Administrative assistance was also provided to families needing to cross the river Jordan urgently for family reasons (for instance, because of the critical health or death of a relative).

In coordination with UNHCR, the ICRC issued travel documents for refugees without identity papers who were leaving for host countries pursuant to arrangements made by UNHCR and the embassies concerned.

The ICRC in Jordan remained a focal point for families who were unable, for example in the absence of diplomatic relations, to contact the authorities of another country for information about a detained relative, for authorization for a family visit or with a tracing request.

NEAR EAST JORDAN

*dissemination of humanitarian
law and principles*

*providing information
to members of civil society*

*cooperation
with the National Society*

Up to February 1999, the ICRC also ensured links between families living in Jordan and their relatives detained in Kuwait in connection with the Gulf war. Following the re-establishment of diplomatic ties between the two countries in February, the last Jordanian detainees registered by the ICRC and detained in Kuwait were released.

Since 1994 the ICRC has pursued its dialogue with the Jordanian authorities with the dual goal of promoting humanitarian law and principles throughout Jordanian society and safeguarding its own capacity to respond to humanitarian emergencies in Iraq. In 1999, the delegation intensified its contacts with the military and police authorities with a view to facilitating the incorporation of these principles into military training, providing the military authorities with the necessary technical support for such training, and selecting military personnel for "train-the-trainers" courses. This process was given a boost thanks to the support of a retired Jordanian Armed Forces Major General acting as a consultant in the matter.

The highlight of the year was a week-long series of training sessions on the law of armed conflict organized jointly with the Jordanian Armed Forces in November. Sessions included a two-day "train-the-trainers" course at the Staff and Command College for 120 company commanders, including majors and captains from the Jordanian Armed Forces and from the Gulf States, Mauritania, Pakistan and China. Further sessions were held at the Royal War College and the Martyr King Abdallah bin al Hussein Infantry School in Amman. The participants were briefed on the fundamental principles of the law of war, the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, the emblem, and humanitarian law as opposed to human rights law.

The delegation maintained regular contacts with local, Arab and foreign media representatives, with university students, research centres, academics and visitors seeking information on different humanitarian issues. Dissemination activities intensified in August around the 50th anniversary of the Geneva Conventions. A ceremony was held on 22 August under the patronage of the Prime Minister and the Minister of Defence; it was attended by high-ranking representatives from the military, police and civil authorities. Jordanian media prepared special features and private companies also contributed to the event. In one instance, a major shopping mall in Amman displayed ICRC and National Society posters, films and publications.

As in the past, the ICRC and the Jordanian National Red Crescent Society maintained a good level of cooperation. In addition to the joint activities mentioned above (ambulance transfers and tracing), the ICRC supported the National Society's endeavours to promote knowledge of humanitarian law and the Movement by providing training and financial assistance.

The Jordanian Red Crescent continued to assume a lead role in dissemination for schoolchildren, with regular sessions held at its headquarters and essay competitions organized over the year. In cooperation with the Ministry of Education, texts on humanitarian law, the Fundamental Principles, the ICRC and the Jordanian Red Crescent were incorporated into Jordanian school curricula, for use in both public and UNWRA* schools.

* UNWRA: United Nations Relief and Works Agency

mine-awareness

The Jordanian Red Crescent was appointed secretary of the National Committee for the Implementation of Humanitarian Law in Jordan, the first meeting of which was held at the beginning of August. The ICRC had invited the President of the National Society to a special meeting in Geneva in February for further briefing and discussions on the work of such national committees.

The ICRC delegation continued to provide material and information on anti-personnel landmines during dissemination sessions for schools and the general public, held in cooperation with the Jordanian Red Crescent.

IN 1999 THE ICRC:



- carried out 37 visits to 10 places of detention and registered 369 detainees for the first time;
- arranged for the exchange of 980 Red Cross messages between detainees and their families, and occasionally forwarded parcels and financial assistance to the detainees;
- issued 80 detention certificates for persons formerly detained in Jordan;
- issued over 100 detention certificates in respect of detainees in Israel and those held in connection with the aftermath of the Gulf war;



- restored and maintained contacts between members of separated Jordanian and Palestinian families;
- handled Red Cross messages and forwarded documents to and from the occupied and autonomous territories;
- issued 303 travel documents to expedite the resettlement of refugees, in particular Iraqis;



- facilitated medical transfers between the West and East Banks carried out by the Jordanian Red Crescent and the "Palestine Red Crescent Society";
- in cooperation with the Jordanian Red Crescent and the Ministry of Education, gave regular courses on humanitarian law and principles to schoolchildren, teachers and National Society members;
- supported the annual Jordanian Red Crescent "train-the-trainers" workshop, which was attended by 76 volunteers from the different branches and representatives of the Ministry of Education and covered Red Cross and Red Crescent issues;
- trained National Society staff in tracing techniques;
- provided support for the production of a new National Society brochure detailing its various activities on behalf of the local community, printed in both Arabic and English;
- facilitated participation by two Jordanian Red Crescent members at a "train-the-trainers" workshop on anti-personnel mines in Yemen in November, after which the National Society launched a child-to-child awareness-raising programme in mine-infested areas of Jordan;



- in cooperation with the Jordanian Armed Forces, organized a week-long series of training sessions on the law of armed conflict for high-ranking officers and military instructors from Jordan, the Gulf States and other countries, in November;
- enabled two retired generals to attend military and police courses in Geneva, and thus ultimately to contribute to the "train-the-trainers" courses agreed on with the Jordanian military authorities;
- held talks for women officers and NCOs at the Royal Military Academy in April, and for female recruits from different army corps, in particular the medical services, in November;
- held training sessions on humanitarian law for Jordanian military and police contingents being sent on UN peacekeeping missions;
- held a dissemination session for General Intelligence Directorate staff in November at which 17 officers were briefed on the ICRC's mandate, its customary visiting procedures, and its specificity;
- gave a presentation on the role of humanitarian law in conflict resolution, the ICRC and the Movement to 30 UNICEF field workers active in the region;
- negotiated the incorporation of texts on humanitarian law into a standard teacher's manual published in May and into school curricula in September;
- regularly provided universities and documentation centres with reference materials and publications on humanitarian issues and law;
- arranged for the showing in Jordan of an exhibition entitled "Art in the Service of Humanity", organized by the ICRC in Damascus, in which the works of 18 Syrian artists, produced specially for the 50th anniversary of the Geneva Conventions, were displayed for five days.

LEBANON

*renewed tension
in southern Lebanon*

*civilians living in
Israeli-occupied southern Lebanon*

During the year under review, military operations and security incidents continued to take place in and around southern Lebanon, which is under Israeli occupation.⁷ On the whole, the presence on the ground of the Monitoring Group, set up pursuant to the Understanding reached in April 1996 after Operation Grapes of Wrath to urge the parties to the conflict to abide more strictly by the rules of the law of war, continued to act as a moderating influence in the fighting. The number of civilian casualties decreased for the second year running.

The ICRC regularly offered its services as a neutral intermediary to all the parties to the conflict and urged them to comply with the provisions of humanitarian law and to spare civilian lives and property.

In February, the border village of Arnoun in southern Lebanon was sealed off from the rest of the country for 10 days, during which it was temporarily integrated into the Israeli-occupied zone before being returned to Lebanon. The ICRC conducted daily visits to the village during that period, distributing food parcels and medical supplies, and arranging for the transfer of villagers who had to leave or go to Arnoun for urgent reasons. It also transported dairy products on behalf of local producers to be sold in the closest market town, as a means of limiting their losses.

Tensions rose again in the south and in the Bekaa valley in early March, after a senior Israeli commanding officer and three other Israeli nationals were killed in a roadside bomb attack in southern Lebanon.

June saw an escalation of the violence between Israeli and Lebanese armed groups, with rocket attacks against northern Israel and Israeli air strikes against Lebanese infrastructure (power stations, roads and a bridge), including in the suburbs of Beirut. As a result of these incidents, eight people died and more than 20 were wounded in Lebanon, and two people were killed and a number wounded in northern Israel. The ICRC approached the two parties to remind them of their obligation to spare civilians during military operations.

On 1 June, following a number of security incidents, the SLA⁸ militia withdrew from the Jezzine pocket, which it had controlled for the past 15 years. Israel's new Prime Minister announced that Israel would withdraw from southern Lebanon by July 2000, either in the framework of a treaty or unilaterally.

As in the past, the ICRC focused on improving the situation of civilians affected by the hostilities, in particular those living within the Israeli-occupied zone in southern Lebanon, who are protected by the Fourth Geneva Convention, and the inhabitants of front-line villages.

The inhabitants of southern Lebanon have been directly affected by the conflict for over 20 years. In 1999 they continued to be exposed not only to the dangers stemming from the hostilities, but also to various violations of humanitarian law, such as arbitrary detention, deportation from the occupied zone and demolition of houses. Over the years, thousands have abandoned their homes, because of the hostilities or increased economic pressure, leaving some villages inhabited only by the elderly and the most vulnerable.

Furthermore, military activities carried out in close proximity to inhabited areas in the occupied zone prevented the local population from going about its daily

⁷ The group is made up of American, French, Israeli, Lebanese and Syrian representatives.

⁸ See p. 299.

*assistance to civilians living
in the occupied zone
and on the front line*

medical assistance

*cooperation
with the National Society*

business. Problems of access to agricultural land, which is often situated in dangerous areas, the temporary sealing off of certain villages and the difficulty of gaining access to medical care had direct consequences for the population both in economic terms and in terms of health and safety.

The ICRC fulfilled its role of neutral intermediary between the parties to the conflict by enabling some exposed villages to harvest their fields in the conflict zone and to carry out necessary maintenance and repair work on electricity networks and water pipes. This was the case, for example, in the villages of Arnoun, Yohmor and Nabatieh on a number of occasions throughout the year.

As in the past, delegates on the ground recorded allegations of violations of the Geneva Conventions and made oral or written representations to the relevant authorities (i.e., the IDF,* the SLA and Lebanese armed groups).

In December, the ICRC, at the request of all the parties concerned, organized an operation to evacuate the mortal remains from southern Lebanon of seven members of Lebanese armed groups during a general cease-fire agreed upon for that purpose, so that they could be returned to their families.

The ICRC, which had unlimited access to all villages in southern Lebanon and along the front line, responded to the needs of the inhabitants of exposed, remote or sealed-off villages by providing food parcels, bread, fruit and vegetables, as well as fodder for livestock that could not be taken to nearby fields.

The ICRC paid particular attention to those sectors of the population which did not benefit from State-run development programmes or from the services of other humanitarian organizations.

Medical assistance remained a priority along the front line and in the occupied zone. The proximity of the front line was still an obstacle to access to medical care, and even though there were numerous dispensaries offering their services for a reasonable price, they did not always have the means to help the most needy. The ICRC assisted front-line hospitals receiving irregular supplies which often did not have the necessary material and medicines to treat the wounded before they were transferred to private hospitals. Following the increased tension in the south and in the Bekaa valley in March, basic medicines and dressing material were supplied as a preventive measure to local health facilities.

Through its mobile clinics, the ICRC provided regular support for eight isolated villages whose inhabitants had no access to medical care.

In the areas affected by the conflict, the ICRC kept up its material, financial and technical support for the operational activities of the Lebanese Red Cross, concentrating on the National Society's first-aid services. This support proved particularly important in times of emergency, enabling the Lebanese Red Cross to fulfil its crucial role as the only paramedical and evacuation service which is able to operate freely in the occupied zone and on the front line.

The ICRC also provided financial support for a series of Lebanese Red Cross training courses for the heads of first-aid and ambulance teams.

Throughout 1999, the ICRC had weekly access to newly arrested persons protected by the Geneva Conventions and held in Khiam detention centre in the Israeli-occupied zone of southern Lebanon. In December, a team of delegates, including a

* IDF : Israeli Defence Forces

visits to Khiam

medical doctor, carried out a complete visit to the detention centre in order to assess the conditions of detention and subsequently forwarded recommendations to the authorities in charge.

With the assistance of the ICRC, which ensured transport and safe passage, the detainees in Khiam received family visits every three months.

In coordination with the prison authorities, the ICRC arranged for an ophthalmologist and a dentist to provide assistance to the detainees. It donated books and handicraft material for the detainees.

Some 70 Lebanese detainees were freed from Khiam in 1999; for a number of them, the ICRC had requested an immediate release on humanitarian grounds. These persons were handed over in Khiam to the ICRC, which ensured their safe return home.

The ICRC also repatriated three Lebanese citizens who were being held in Israeli prisons by transferring them across the closed international border between Israel and Lebanon.

The ICRC had access for the first time in 1999 to four members of the SLA detained by Hezbollah and was able to interview them in private about their conditions of detention and treatment in May/June and again in October. It also organized six family visits for them.

assistance for Palestinian refugees

After over fifty years in exile, thousands of Palestinians were still living in precarious conditions in camps in Lebanon while awaiting a political solution. The ICRC continued to provide support in the form of medicines and emergency supplies for hospitals and dispensaries in the five major Palestinian camps in southern Lebanon.

illegal immigrants

After a ship carrying 72 illegal immigrants was seized by the Israeli navy off the southern Lebanese coast in October, the ICRC delegation in Beirut provided these people, who were protected under the Fourth Geneva Convention, with food, blankets and medical assistance while initiating contacts with the relevant organizations and governments in order to find a solution to their situation.

disseminating humanitarian law

The ICRC again worked to increase awareness of and respect for humanitarian law and the Movement's principles by maintaining contacts with representatives of the Lebanese armed forces.

the threat of landmines

The ICRC made a substantial contribution to a regional conference on the threat of landmines in Arab countries, held in Beirut by the National Demining Bureau of the Lebanese army and the Landmines Resource Centre of Balamand University from 11 to 12 February. The conference brought together several hundred participants, around half of whom were military officers from Arab armies, as well as foreign ministry officials, medical personnel, academics and NGOs. Throughout the year, the ICRC was in direct contact with the National Demining Bureau and provided it with publications and videos on the ICRC's landmine-related activities.

50th anniversary of the Geneva Conventions

As part of the campaign to mark the 50th anniversary of the Geneva Conventions, an international conference entitled "International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights: towards a new approach" was organized by the Human Rights Institute of the Bar Association in Beirut, in cooperation with the ICRC and the Lebanese Red Cross. The conference, held under the auspices of the Minister of Justice from 3 to 4 December, provided an opportunity for some 300 high-ranking representatives of the judiciary, the legislature, and the executive, as well as

contacts with the media

diplomats, academics and lawyers, to debate the relationship between these two branches of law.

Also in the framework of the 50th anniversary, the ICRC delegation in Lebanon took part in the "People on War" project,⁹ asking 1,000 people to share their experiences and opinions on the limits in war. The Lebanese Red Cross played an active part in the project.

Contacts with the media were maintained throughout the 50th anniversary campaign and nine half-hour broadcasts were shown on Future satellite and national television channels from June to August. The broadcasts focused on topics such as the role of the media in promoting humanitarian law, prisoners of war and detainees, women and children in war, water in armed conflicts, and the Movement.

⁹ See pp. 348-350.

IN 1999 THE ICRC:



- visited 235 detainees during its weekly visits to Khiam detention centre and provided them with medical assistance;
- arranged for 1,134 family members from within and outside the occupied zone to visit their detained relatives in Khiam detention centre and Beirut;
- assisted families whose breadwinner was in detention by providing over 900 food parcels;
- collected and distributed 7,134 Red Cross messages for Lebanese detainees both in Khiam and those detained in Israel;
- issued 624 detention certificates to persons who had been detained in connection with the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Gulf war;
- visited on two occasions four SLA members detained by Hezbollah and organized family visits to them;
- repatriated three detainees who were being held in Israeli prisons by transferring them across the closed international border between Israel and Lebanon;



- in February, arranged for the transfer of five villagers who needed to leave or go to Arnoun for urgent reasons;



- handled a total of 7,584 Red Cross messages for Lebanese detainees, civilians and their families;



- provided over 3,200 food parcels and other material assistance to exposed or remote villages in southern Lebanon;

NEAR EAST LEBANON



- provided medical assistance to six hospitals and 19 dispensaries in nine Palestinian camps in Lebanon, and to 14 hospitals and 45 dispensaries along the front line in southern Lebanon;
- provided 34 Palestinian refugees with prostheses;
- in cooperation with the Lebanese Red Cross, carried out over 3,000 consultations in mobile clinics in and near the occupied zone;
- together with the Ministry of Health, organized a two-day seminar on war surgery in May for over 40 surgeons from southern Lebanon who were directly involved in assisting the war-wounded;



- provided 13 Lebanese Red Cross dispensaries and two mobile clinics in the occupied zone and along the front line with basic medicines and dressing materials and other support;
- provided financial and material support to 14 Lebanese Red Cross first-aid centres active in the conflict zone to cover the centres' running costs and the maintenance of the ambulances;
- financed a training course for the heads of first-aid and ambulance teams, involving a total of 12 seminars and seven camps held in Israeli-occupied southern Lebanon;
- supported the organization of a national workshop for the Lebanese Red Cross communication department in March, attended by 30 volunteers from different parts of Lebanon, with a view to creating a communication network in Lebanon;



- for the third year running, participated in the International Arab Book Fair in Beirut, displaying a wide range of publications and showing films on the ICRC's main activities;
- gave numerous presentations on humanitarian law and ICRC activities, for instance at the UN Association of Lebanon and at various universities;
- together with an international law professor, worked on preparing a humanitarian law course for the Lebanese University in Beirut at the beginning of the year;



- contributed to a major regional conference and workshops in Beirut on the threat of landmines in Arab countries, together with the Lebanese Red Cross;
- showed the Ottawa treaty exhibition in different towns across Lebanon;
- took part in workshops on mine-awareness organized by the Lebanese Red Cross in cooperation with the Landmines Resource Centre of Balamand University;
- gave presentations on the humanitarian consequences of landmines and the Ottawa treaty, for instance at events organized by the Lebanese Army's National Demining Bureau and at a seminar hosted by the Human Rights Institute of the Lebanese Bar Association in Beirut.

SYRIA

*protection
of the civilian population*

*transferring family messages
and documents*

*providing travel documents
for refugees*

*repatriation
of a Palestinian refugee*

restoring family links for detainees

As in previous years, the ICRC's work in the Syrian Arab Republic in 1999 was mainly connected with the humanitarian implications of the Arab-Israeli conflict and the dissemination of humanitarian law.

The election of a new Israeli government in May 1999 gave rise to optimism on both sides that the resumption of peace negotiations between Syria and Israel aiming at achieving a sustainable peace was imminent after a four-year stalemate. A first, tentative round of talks took place in mid-December, in Washington, in the presence of the American Secretary of State. During those talks, the two parties reaffirmed their interest in further negotiations and agreed on a framework for future talks, to start on 3 January 2000 in Shepherdstown, West Virginia.

The ICRC continued to act as a neutral intermediary for the Syrian inhabitants of the Syrian Golan Heights occupied by Israel, who are protected by the Fourth Geneva Convention. These people were still not allowed to cross the demarcation line into Syria, where many of them had families they had not seen for over 30 years. The exceptions to the rule – pilgrims, students, and brides going to meet their husbands-to-be – crossed the line under ICRC auspices, with the cooperation and logistical support of UNDOF*/UNTSO.* The transfer of brides for their weddings presented one of the rare opportunities for separated families and friends from both sides of the demarcation line to meet up in the UNDOF-controlled "no-man's land" and spend a few minutes together.

As in other years, the ICRC restored and maintained links between family members separated as a result of the Arab-Israeli conflict – both Syrian nationals and Palestinian refugees – by forwarding Red Cross messages to relatives in the Israeli-occupied territories or third countries. The Golanese population in the Israeli-occupied Syrian Golan Heights and in Syria also made use of the ICRC's services to send and receive official documents.

The ICRC continued to cooperate with UNHCR in issuing travel documents for refugees accepted for resettlement in third countries. The delegation carried out its yearly field mission to Al-Houl refugee camp in north-eastern Syria to provide travel documents, thus saving the refugees the time and expense of a long trip to Damascus for administrative purposes.

After several years of work by the ICRC delegations in Israel/occupied territories/autonomous territories and in Syria, collecting the necessary authorizations, a Palestinian refugee who had come to Syria in 1971 to study was finally allowed to return to Gaza with his wife and children and to be reunited with his relatives in February.

The ICRC again endeavoured to facilitate family contacts between Syrian nationals detained in Israel - who are protected under the Fourth Geneva Convention - and their relatives in Syria, by arranging the exchange of Red Cross messages. In the absence of family visits, this was the only way for the detainees to maintain regular contact with their relatives.

Fourteen Syrian detainees held in Israel were released following the Sharm el-Sheik agreement of 4 September. ICRC staff in Damascus, Gaza and Amman together organized the repatriation to Damascus of one of those detainees for urgent medical reasons.

* UNDOF: United Nations Disengagement Observer Force

* UNTSO: United Nations Truce Supervision Organization

NEAR EAST SYRIA

contact with the authorities

*spreading
the humanitarian message*

*distributing ICRC material
via the media*

*cooperation
with the Syrian Red Crescent*

*"Palestine Red Crescent"
prosthetic/orthotic workshop*

Throughout the year, the ICRC delegation in Damascus maintained regular contact with the Syrian authorities. It also remained in contact with representatives of several Palestinian groups based in the Syrian capital.

A large part of the ICRC's work in Syria in 1999 was devoted to promoting knowledge of humanitarian law and the Movement. The ICRC continued to encourage the Syrian armed forces to incorporate humanitarian law into official training courses for instructors by pursuing contacts with training representatives from the armed forces and providing them with ICRC publications on the subject. It also maintained contacts with UNDOF and UNTSO, which monitor observance of the cease-fire agreement between Israel and Syria, and provided them with publications on humanitarian law.

Syrian civil society showed a growing interest in receiving information on humanitarian law and the activities of the Movement. The ICRC distributed recent publications, such as "The Arabian Epics", an illustrated booklet which uses popular Arab tales to demonstrate the principles of humanitarian law, and the new ICRC regional news bulletin, "Al Insani (The Humanitarian)", both produced by the Regional Promotion Office in Cairo, to a growing number of contacts. It also maintained contacts with a wide range of media, providing them with ICRC radio and television productions and articles.

With regard to the media, the year's signal event was the 50th anniversary of the Geneva Conventions. Information on the Geneva Conventions and humanitarian law in general, and documentation on the "People on War" project, were distributed widely to the local press. To mark the anniversary, the Damascus delegation organized an exhibition of the works of 18 well-known Syrian painters and sculptors, entitled "Even Wars Have Limits", which ran from October to November before moving on to Amman, Jordan.

Cooperation between the ICRC and the Syrian Arab Red Crescent Society in the field of information took off in 1999 with the setting up of a new dissemination department at National Society headquarters. The first joint ICRC-Syrian Red Crescent project was the production of a bi-monthly newsletter, the first issue of which appeared in July, covering the activities of all 14 National Society branches.

From 17 to 30 August, the National Society hosted an international camp for young volunteers, at which 120 people from 22 different National Societies were present. The ICRC directed one of the workshops, held in both English and Arabic, which focused on the Movement, humanitarian law and the challenges of the new millennium.

The ICRC worked to enhance the National Society's visibility by organizing a mass public campaign over the summer to help tackle the problem of water shortages in Syria. Over 250 specially-made posters, bearing the ICRC and Syrian Red Crescent logos, were displayed in public places.

The ICRC continued to provide technical and financial support for the prosthetic/orthotic workshop run by the "Palestine Red Crescent Society" in Damascus. Unfortunately, no National Society was found to take over financial support of the workshop's activities. However, thanks to cooperation between the ICRC and the "Palestine Red Crescent", Palestinian refugees and/or needy individuals living in the region were fitted with artificial limbs free of charge at the Damascus

workshop. In addition, the ICRC continued to finance the publication of four different leaflets and brochures presenting the services and activities provided by the "Palestine Red Crescent".

IN 1999 THE ICRC:



- organized the repatriation, for urgent medical reasons, of one of the 14 Syrian detainees released by Israel in the wake of the Sharm el-Sheikh agreement;
- supervised eight handover operations, enabling 489 people to cross over from Syria to the the Israeli-occupied Syrian Golan Heights; altogether, 16 handover operations enabling 980 people to cross the demarcation line to/from the Golan Heights were organized, in conjunction with the ICRC delegation in Israel;



- restored and maintained contact between family members separated by conflict by forwarding 291 Red Cross messages on their behalf;
- issued travel documents to facilitate the resettlement of 477 refugees, mostly Iraqi nationals, in third countries;
- issued 23 detention certificates;
- arranged for a Palestinian refugee who had come to Syria to study in 1971 to return to Gaza and to be reunited with his relatives;



- supported the Syrian Arab Red Crescent's new bi-monthly newsletter, which aims to increase awareness of the National Society's mission and activities among the general public;
- organized a two-day seminar (3-4 July) for 18 disseminators from the 14 Syrian Red Crescent branches, focusing on the Movement, the basic principles of humanitarian law and the Geneva Conventions;
- directed a workshop on the Movement, humanitarian law and the challenges of the new millennium at a camp for young volunteers organized by the National Society from 17 to 30 August, at which 22 different National Societies (120 people) were represented;
- continued to support the "Palestine Red Crescent Society" prosthetic/orthotic workshop in Damascus by providing technical and material assistance; in cooperation with the ICRC delegation in Jordan, arranged for Palestinian refugees and/or needy individuals from the region to be fitted with prostheses at the Damascus workshop;



- arranged for a Syrian international law professor to attend an expert meeting on customary norms of humanitarian law in Geneva from 4 to 8 January;
- put together an exhibition of works of art, entitled "Even Wars Have Limits", by 18 well-known Syrian painters and sculptors;
- provided Syrian media outlets with regular ICRC news in English and Arabic, including information about ICRC activities worldwide and the latest developments in the field of humanitarian law;
- in cooperation with the Cairo delegation, worked with Syrian producers to make three TV spots on the protection of the red cross/red crescent emblem.

IRAN

*national committee
for the implementation
of humanitarian law*

National Society

*dissemination
of humanitarian law*

The ICRC maintained an office in Tehran staffed by local employees. It stayed in contact with the Iranian authorities on the humanitarian issues remaining unresolved since the Iran-Iraq war via its headquarters in Geneva. In June, an expatriate was posted to Tehran for several months, in order to make progress on the POW issue. In 1999, the ICRC was able to pursue its interviews with Iraqi POWs in Iran with a view to repatriating those wishing to return to Iraq.¹⁰

In September 1999, the ICRC was informed by the Iranian Red Crescent Society that a national committee for the implementation of humanitarian law was being set up and would be chaired by the National Society. The ICRC was invited by the Iranian Red Crescent to assist the committee.

Since the closure of its delegation in Iran in 1992, the ICRC had had virtually no contact with the Iranian Red Crescent apart from tracing activities. In 1999, it worked to renew and develop contacts. On 17 August, the new President of the Iranian Red Crescent and the head of the International Affairs Department were received at ICRC headquarters in Geneva. This provided an opportunity to present the ICRC to the President and to explore possible areas of cooperation.

In 1999 the National Society finished constructing a prosthetic/orthotic centre to train Iranian and foreign technicians. It also set up a dissemination office, and expressed interest in cooperating with the ICRC in this field.

An ICRC legal adviser took part in a course on international public law organized by UNITAR* and the UN Office for Legal Affairs held in Tehran from 20 November to 1 December. The course was attended by 25 high-ranking officials from 13 countries in the Middle East, Central Asia and Asia. The ICRC representative gave an introductory presentation on humanitarian law, the recent 27th International Conference and the "People on War" project. ICRC material was distributed and contacts established with the Iranian representatives.

¹⁰ See p. 325.

* UNITAR: United Nations Institute for Training and Research

IN 1999 THE ICRC:



- supervised the repatriation of 715 Iraqi POWs held in Iran and 53 Iranian civilian detainees held in Iraq after ensuring that they were returning home of their own free will;



- gave a series of talks on humanitarian law, the 27th International Conference and the "People on War" project at the first-ever regional course on international public law organized by the UN in Tehran.

THE GULF IRAQ

IRAQ

PROTECTION

2,283,438

ASSISTANCE

11,823,390

PREVENTIVE ACTION

390,961

COOPERATION WITH THE NATIONAL SOCIETY

370,121

OVERHEADS

964,328

GENERAL

639,236

TOTAL EXPENDITURE Sfr 16,471,473



⊕ ICRC delegation ⊕ ICRC sub-delegation + ICRC office ⊕ Prosthetic/orthotic centre/workshop

In 1999, daily life for much of the Iraqi population continued to be dominated by the crippling effects of the international trade sanctions imposed in 1990. The "oil-for-food" programme, introduced by UN Security Council resolution 986 in 1995 and renewed for the seventh time in December 1999, did lead to increased availability of food and medicines, but public infrastructure, particularly in the health sector and in the field of water and sanitation, continued to deteriorate steadily owing to the lack of repairs and maintenance on buildings and technical equipment over the years. At the end of 1999, a number of public services were close to complete collapse. On 17 December, the UN Security Council adopted resolution 1284 (China, France, Russia and Malaysia abstained) aimed at improving the situation for the civilian population. Iraq did not accept the resolution.

The ICRC continued to express its deep concern throughout the year about the consequences of the sanctions in humanitarian terms. It drew the attention of the international community to the gravity of the situation on a number of occasions, in particular through regular high-level contacts and in various publications. At the same time, it greatly stepped up its activities in Iraq, in an effort to alleviate the plight

the effects of sanctions

of the civilian population. The ICRC remained convinced, however, that exemptions to the sanctions and humanitarian aid, although essential in order to address urgent and specific needs, were only partial, stopgap measures, and no substitute for a country's entire economy. These views were, in particular, expressed in a public report issued in December entitled "Iraq: A Decade of Sanctions".

Throughout 1999, United States and British aircraft continued to bomb targets in the "no-fly zones" imposed by them in the north and south of the country.

In northern Iraq, the civilian population enjoyed relative peace following the signing of the Washington Agreement in September 1998 between the two main Kurdish parties (the KDP* and the PUK*). The truce was a fragile one, however, and the population was not entirely spared the effects of conflict. Sporadic fighting broke out between the KDP and the PKK,* which continued to use the mountains of northern Iraq as rearguard positions. The Turkish army launched "hot pursuit attacks" in these areas. Talks continued between the KDP and the PUK with regard to the release of detainees and the return of displaced families to their places of origin, but with no tangible results.

In 1999, the ICRC focused on providing a rapid response to some of the needs not covered by the "oil-for-food programme". In view of the worsening situation, it drew up new health-care programmes and extended its existing water and sanitation programme, partly in response to the worst drought in decades. The ICRC's overriding goal was to keep the main existing infrastructure at least functional.

The ICRC carried out comprehensive surveys of 14 major Iraqi hospitals - focusing mainly on the surgical sections and on the condition of the buildings - and 18 primary health care centres. It found the hospitals in very poor condition and missing essential equipment; doctors lacked up-to-date knowledge for want of access to medical literature, and training needs were identified in several areas. This prompted the ICRC to draw up a new, three-pronged medical emergency programme comprising repairs to hospitals and health care buildings, deliveries of medical material, and a training programme for qualified medical personnel.

By the end of the year, work was under way in six major hospitals in Iraq: one in Basra, two in Baghdad, one in Mosul, one in Arbil and one in Sulaymaniyah. One of the ICRC's top priorities was the hospital water-supply and sewage-disposal systems.

Especially good progress was made on the renovation of 500-bed Basra Teaching Hospital. Extensive repair work on the roof was completed before the first rains, and the basement, which had been constantly flooded, was drained and cleaned. Six out of ten hospital elevators were repaired and working again by the end of the year. Work on Ibn Al-Khatib Infectious Diseases Hospital in Baghdad started with the repair and maintenance of the hospital generator.

The ICRC provided a one-year subscription to 29 different international medical journals for the central Ministry of Health library. The journals began arriving weekly from mid-October. A copy of nine major journals was also given to each governorate.

Although implementation of resolution 986 enabled Iraqi water boards to obtain materials for the maintenance and repair of installations, the problems resulting from

assistance for the civilian population in Iraq

new medical programme for Iraq

* KDP: Kurdish Democratic Party
* PUK: Patriotic Union of Kurdistan
* PKK: Kurdish Workers' Party

water and sanitation

drought-related projects

programmes for amputees

several years' interruption in the operation of certain facilities continued to cause much concern. In 1999 the water installations faced the additional challenge of the worst drought in decades.

The relationship of confidence built up with the authorities in the field of water and sanitation after years of cooperation enabled the ICRC to undertake numerous projects in 1999, including emergency projects to tackle the problems caused by the consequences of drought. The ICRC water and sanitation team completed 17 drought-related projects on water-treatment plants across the country – mainly through local contractors – for the benefit of 3.6 million people. One of the largest projects, completed in spring 1999, entailed the 70-metre extension of the river-intake structure of a purification plant on the Tigris river in Baghdad, and rehabilitation of much of the plant. Changes in the river bed, compounded by the lowest water levels since 1932, had brought the plant to a complete standstill. The plant resumed operation and satisfied the needs of 300,000 people (250 litres/person/day).

In Mosul, three months of work were required in early 1999 to extend seven huge suction pipes underwater and to construct two 60-metre submersible dams in order to redirect the flow towards the plant. Local dredging was also carried out around the intake to improve the flow conditions. After completion of the work, the plant produced 11,000 cubic metres an hour and served 700,000 people.

Only some of the drought-related problems could be solved by on-site intervention. To deal with the worsening quality of untreated water, the ICRC provided additional chemicals.

In parallel to the drought-related emergency projects, implementation of the 1999 water and sanitation programme continued as planned. Nineteen water-treatment plants, one sewage-treatment plant and five sewage-lifting stations, covering the needs of 4.94 million people, underwent major repairs. Teams of ICRC technicians carried out maintenance on 21 other water- or sewage-treatment plants.

The ICRC responded to the deteriorating electricity situation by repairing 46 generators in water and sewage plants; the result was a total back-up capacity of 18,600 kVA, thus enabling the plants to increase production considerably.

In 1999 the ICRC commissioned four new water-treatment plants, which were designed and built from scratch, to improve both the quantity and quality of water for some 30,000 inhabitants of remote and rural areas.

Concerned by the water shortages triggered by the drought and their effect on the living conditions of internally displaced persons accommodated in the town of Arbil, the ICRC improved the evacuation of wastewater in 10 buildings housing 3,000 internally displaced persons, thus reducing the risk of epidemics. It also arranged for tanker-trucks to empty the septic tanks of a further 120 buildings housing about 5,000 internally displaced in Arbil.

Iraq has a high number of military and civilian amputees, mainly war-disabled from the Iran-Iraq and Gulf conflicts, but also casualties of the fighting in northern Iraq and people injured by landmines. The quality of medical care for amputees in Iraq declined steadily after 1991, in part because Iraq was unable to import the materials needed to use the proper technology. In 1999, the ICRC continued to consolidate its prosthetic/orthotic programme, begun in 1994, which uses alternative technology with the goal of enabling Iraq to run its prosthetic service independently and at lower cost.

THE GULF IRAQ

*cooperation
with the Iraqi Red Crescent Society*

*promoting the ICRC's
activities and mandate*

dissemination in northern Iraq

New gait-training areas were built at the Basra and Mosul centres, and additional material support was given to renovate technical facilities at the Ibn Al-Kuff centre, run by the Ministry of Defence in Baghdad. Training sessions were organized for the staff of the Medical Rehabilitation Centre, run by the Ministry of Health in Baghdad. In northern Iraq, the running of the ICRC limb-fitting centre in Arbil was delegated to the Norwegian Red Cross.

The ICRC continued to run its component workshop in Baghdad, employing around 20 Iraqi amputees.

In July and September, the ICRC held two week-long seminars on "Partial foot prosthetics" and "Physiotherapy, gait analysis and gait training", together with the Ministry of Health.

As in the past, the ICRC's cooperation with the Iraqi Red Crescent Society mainly involved the provision of medical and other supplies, support for the National Society prosthetic/orthotic workshop in Mosul, and non-food aid for displaced persons in northern Iraq.

In 1999, the ICRC worked to build up the National Society's capacity in the fields of dissemination, tracing and conflict- and disaster-preparedness (including community-based first aid). The Iraqi Red Crescent dissemination programme in northern Iraq was launched in April with a training workshop attended by representatives of the branches in the three northern governorates.

In central/southern Iraq, the ICRC organized training workshops for Iraqi Red Crescent tracing and dissemination staff from all 18 National Society branches. The Iraqi Red Crescent and the ICRC also cooperated to ensure respect for the red cross and red crescent emblems.

The ICRC pursued its efforts to make humanitarian law and its mandate better known in Iraq, in particular via the media. Eight short TV spots and a 20-minute documentary film were made in cooperation with local producers and an Iraqi satellite channel. The spots focused on water and sanitation activities, prosthetic/orthotic activities and tracing. An 18-minute film was made during the repatriation of prisoners of war in March.¹¹ A promotional spot on ICRC activities and the emblem was broadcast on the main Iraqi TV channel.

In order to familiarize Iraqi children with humanitarian principles and the Movement, the ICRC financed and co-produced with the Ministry of Culture and Information the first three issues of a free children's magazine called "Sindbad of Baghdad".

In northern Iraq, the ICRC and the Iraqi Red Crescent gave lectures on humanitarian law and the Movement to representatives of the authorities, academic circles, members of local NGOs, students, and ICRC and National Society staff. TV and radio spots were broadcast on 15 different channels and stations.

The ICRC organized a mobile art exhibition, entitled "Even Wars have Limits", to mark the 50th anniversary of the Geneva Conventions. The exhibition, which displayed the works of 73 Iraqi painters and calligraphers, was shown in the towns of Sulaymaniyah, Dohuk and Arbil.

Although the ICRC was not yet authorized to organize humanitarian law sessions for the armed forces, it continued to promote humanitarian law among

¹¹ See p. 325.

THE GULF IRAQ

*winter relief programme
for internally displaced persons
in northern Iraq*

visits to detainees

neutral intermediary

the military by donating promotional material and booklets on the basic rules of this body of law.

In northern Iraq, an estimated 120,000 people had been driven from their homes since fighting broke out between rival Kurdish factions in 1994. As many of the displaced lived in tents or in open, unheated public buildings, conditions were particularly harsh during the winter months. As part of the ongoing ICRC programme for the most vulnerable displaced persons, a major distribution of winter relief supplies was carried out in February 1999.

The ICRC was in constant contact with some 25 to 30 medical facilities treating the war-wounded and provided medical material in accordance with needs.

In northern Iraq, delegates continued to visit detainees arrested for security reasons or as a result of the hostilities or internal violence, in order to monitor their living conditions and treatment. Wherever improvements were deemed necessary, the ICRC made representations to the authorities on the detainees' behalf. Contacts between detainees and their families were established and maintained through Red Cross messages.

Persons still unaccounted for as a result of the Iran-Iraq and Gulf wars continued to be a source of concern to the ICRC,¹² which again acted as a neutral intermediary between the parties involved, with the aim of overcoming the stalemate in the proceedings and providing technical assistance when needed.

¹² See pp. 325-326.

IN 1999 THE ICRC:



- visited 120 civilian nationals of countries not represented in Iraq since the Gulf war and held at Abu Ghraib detention centre near Baghdad, and provided one-off assistance;
- carried out 91 visits to 47 places of detention in northern Iraq, where it saw 856 people detained for security reasons or in connection with the fighting between the various Kurdish factions;
- provided regular ad hoc material aid (hygiene articles, clothes and leisure items) for detainees visited in northern Iraq;
- organized five workshops on humanitarian law and minimum international standards for the treatment of detainees for some 120 members of the security forces and prison staff in northern Iraq;



- handled 14,000 Red Cross messages, in cooperation with the Iraqi Red Crescent Society; issued 33 detention certificates and 703 travel documents (for asylum seekers for whom a resettlement country had been found by UNHCR);



- provided 72,000 internally displaced people in northern Iraq with emergency winter assistance (children's coats, blankets, heaters, carpets) and 1,000 people affected by the conflict with basic assistance, in cooperation with the Iraqi Red Crescent Society;
- following the air strikes, provided relief and medical assistance for wounded and displaced civilians, and for families whose homes had been partially or totally destroyed, in cooperation with the Iraqi Red Crescent Society;



- following the air strikes, provided three hospitals across the country with enough emergency medical and surgical supplies to treat 200 war-wounded;
- in northern Iraq, provided medical facilities with medical and surgical aid and anaesthetic material to cope with some 300 war-wounded, including mine victims;
- completed repairs to Tikrit hospital, which had suffered damage during the air strikes in December 1998;
- began repair work on Basra Teaching Hospital, Al-Batool Maternity Hospital in Mosul and Al-Karama General Hospital in Baghdad;
- provided 41 urgently needed air-conditioning units and other equipment for Ibn Al-Khatib Infectious Diseases Hospital in Baghdad;
- donated dressing and injection material and basic drugs to the Iraqi Red Crescent Hospital in Baghdad and to a private charity hospital;
- supplied a number of medical textbooks and CD-ROMs and took out subscriptions to 29 different medical journals for the Ministry of Health library in Baghdad;
- distributed emergency supplies to 43 medical facilities in northern Iraq for the treatment of about 400 war-wounded during the year;



- continued to provide support to four government prosthetic/orthotic centres (in Baghdad, Basra and Najaf), the Iraqi Red Crescent centre in Mosul and the ICRC's own centre in Arbil, by carrying out maintenance and construction work on the buildings and providing raw material, components, technical follow-up and staff training;
- fitted 2,472 new amputees with prostheses at the six ICRC-supported prosthetic/orthotic centres;
- produced, in its workshop in Baghdad, the necessary components for 3,468 prostheses (1,945 of them for victims of anti-personnel mines), 2,878 orthoses and 1,742 pairs of elbow crutches;
- built a new dormitory next to the Arbil limb-fitting centre in order to accommodate up to 40 patients coming from remote areas of northern Iraq;
- contributed to the training of technicians from all over the country by organizing, jointly with the Ministry of Health, two week-long seminars on "Partial foot prosthetics" and "Physiotherapy, gait analysis and gait training" and two one-day seminars on prosthetic socket design;



- carried out major repairs on 19 water-treatment plants, one sewage-treatment plant and five sewage-lifting stations, covering the needs of 4.94 million people;
- carried out maintenance work on 21 water- or sewage-treatment plants;
- completed 17 emergency drought-related projects on water-treatment and distribution plants across the country, for the benefit of a total of 3.6 million people;
- provided 100 tonnes of chlorine for water-purification plants in rural areas, and 50 tonnes of polyelectrolyte for Baghdad's major plant, Karkh, which covered the needs of 3.4 million people;
- repaired and overhauled 46 electricity generators in water- and sewage-treatment plants, thus enabling the plants to increase production;
- commissioned the design and construction of four new water-treatment plants, to improve the quantity and quality of water for some 30,000 inhabitants of remote and rural areas;
- hired tanker-trucks to empty the septic tanks of temporary accommodation housing around 5,000 internally displaced persons in northern Iraq;



- continued to support the National Society's three branches in northern Iraq, in particular in providing emergency aid for displaced families;
- continued to cover all the costs of the Iraqi Red Crescent limb-fitting centre in Mosul;
- organized training workshops for tracing and dissemination staff from all 18 Iraqi Red Crescent branches and provided the National Society with financial and technical support in these areas;
- developed the capacity of Iraqi Red Crescent branches to conduct at least three humanitarian law dissemination sessions a month for civilians and members of the armed forces;
- provided financial and technical support for production of a new National Society newsletter;
- donated equipment and drugs for the National Society's ongoing medical activities;

THE GULF IRAQ



- produced eight TV spots on ICRC activities in Iraq, and made a video film, "Years of Drought", on the situation of the civilian population after nine years of sanctions, with the support of the ICRC's Regional Promotion Office in Cairo;
- financed and distributed 73,000 copies of the first three editions of a children's magazine, "Sindbad of Baghdad", co-produced with the Ministry of Culture and Information;
- produced three editions of the ICRC "News Bulletin", in Arabic, Kurdish and English, promoting knowledge of the ICRC's activities in Iraq and around the world;
- in northern Iraq, gave 12 lectures on humanitarian law and the Movement for different target groups and held 10 dissemination sessions in cooperation with the Iraqi Red Crescent;
- distributed promotional material on the Geneva Conventions and the rules of behaviour in combat, translated into Kurdish and Arabic, to the armed forces in northern Iraq;
- organized an exhibition of the paintings of over 100 Iraqi artists in Baghdad, entitled "Humanity crosses the threshold of the millennium";
- organized a mobile art exhibition, entitled "Even Wars have Limits", of the works of 73 Iraqi artists in northern Iraq, to mark the 50th anniversary of the Geneva Conventions.

THE GULF AFTERMATH OF THE IRAN-IRAQ WAR

AFTERMATH OF THE IRAN-IRAQ WAR

*release and repatriation
of prisoners of war*

persons still unaccounted for



Considerable progress had been made in 1998 towards resolving the issue of POWs from the Iran-Iraq war, and in 1999 the ICRC was able to pursue its interviews with Iraqi POWs in Iran with a view to repatriating those wishing to return to Iraq.

Since the cease-fire in July 1988, the ICRC has urged the two parties to release and repatriate all POWs without further delay, to make progress in identifying and repatriating the bodies of those killed in the war, and to make serious efforts to resolve the problem of people who are still unaccounted for, in accordance with the Geneva Conventions.

The resumption in 1997 of talks between Iran and Iraq on the POW question and the issue of persons unaccounted for led to the release and repatriation in 1998, under ICRC auspices, of more than 6,000 Iraqi POWs held in Iran and over 300 Iranians detained in Iraq.

Bilateral meetings between the two countries continued in 1999. The ICRC, as a neutral intermediary, was authorized by the Iranian authorities to interview 958 Iraqi POWs in private who were either living freely in Iran or had been interned since the conflict. The objective of the interviews was to ascertain whether the POWs wanted to stay in Iran or return to Iraq.

During the year under review, the ICRC supervised three repatriation operations, in March, June and September, in which 715 Iraqi POWs crossed the Mundharieh/Khosravi checkpoint on the border between the two countries. ICRC delegates registered and checked the identities of the prisoners and held private interviews with each of them to ensure they were going home of their own free will. This brought to 6,890 the number of prisoners freed and repatriated by both sides since April 1998.

The ICRC also cooperated with UNHCR on the issue of Iraqi POWs not wishing to be repatriated, in order to ensure they were protected as refugees.

In 1999 some progress was made in ascertaining the fate of those unaccounted for since the conflict between Iran and Iraq. Bilateral discussions between the two countries revealed a willingness to resolve the issue, which affected tens of thousands of families still without news of their relatives. The ICRC did not take part in these discussions.

IN 1999 THE ICRC:

- supervised the repatriation of 715 Iraqi POWs held in Iran and 53 Iranian civilian detainees held in Iraq after ensuring that they were returning home of their own free will;
- interviewed 243 other POWs still in Iran who did not wish to be repatriated;
- issued 418 detention certificates for former POWs from the Iran-Iraq war;
- processed 159 inquiries relating to the whereabouts of prisoners of war and persons unaccounted for in Iran.

THE GULF AFTERMATH OF THE GULF WAR

AFTERMATH OF THE GULF WAR

Tripartite Commission

repatriation of mortal remains

*visits to detainees
in Iraq and Kuwait*

restoring family ties

The ICRC pursued its efforts to shed light on the fate of persons who were still unaccounted for as a result of the Gulf war (1990-1991), on the basis of the lists presented by Iraq, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia. Following Iraq's decision in December 1998 and January 1999 to suspend its participation in the ICRC-chaired Tripartite Commission¹³ and its Technical Sub-Committee in their current composition, the ICRC pursued its efforts, at both technical and diplomatic levels, to find solutions to the humanitarian problem of people who were unaccounted for. To this end, the ICRC Head of Operations for the Middle East and North Africa conducted a mission to Baghdad and Kuwait in March. The ICRC relayed communications between the parties involved and worked on various suggestions to reactivate the process; its efforts had not met with success at the end of 1999.

Throughout 1999, Iraq maintained its position that it would agree to attend meetings of the Tripartite Commission and its Technical Sub-Committee under ICRC auspices only if Kuwait and Saudi Arabia were the sole other participants.

Over the year, the ICRC hosted three consultation meetings, on 3 February, 15 July and 19 November, with all the members of the Tripartite Commission except Iraq. The aim of the meetings was to discuss possibilities for continuing the process of ascertaining the fate of persons unaccounted for during the Gulf war and to restore the dialogue between the parties.

At the same time, the ICRC met regularly with the Iraqi authorities in order to find a way out of the impasse. Meetings on technical aspects of the files also continued on a regular basis.

In March, the ICRC repatriated from Kuwait the mortal remains of an Iraqi soldier who had been killed during the Gulf war.

In both Iraq and Kuwait, the ICRC continued to monitor the treatment and conditions of detention of persons detained in connection with the Gulf war.

In November, ICRC delegates visited 59 people held at Abu Ghraib detention centre near Baghdad who had no diplomatic protection as a result of the conflict. The detainees, for the most part Syrians, but also some nationals of other Arab countries, wrote Red Cross messages for their families abroad. Also in November, ICRC health delegates carried out a survey of the prison hospital, where they saw 90 patients in the general medicine unit and 99 in the tuberculosis unit, and made a number of recommendations for improvements.

In Kuwait, the ICRC also visited detainees who were without diplomatic representation, mainly Iraqis, Palestinians without travel documents and stateless persons, in order to monitor their treatment and conditions of detention. The ICRC met the detainees in private and facilitated contacts with families abroad. Delegates also visited Jordanian detainees until February 1999, when the two countries re-established diplomatic relations and all Jordanian security detainees were released.

ICRC delegates also visited persons subject to expulsion orders and staying in transit camps, making sure that their departure for countries of resettlement took place under proper conditions.

The ICRC continued to arrange for the exchange of Red Cross messages between members of families separated since the Gulf war. It also issued travel documents for people who had been accepted by host countries but had no identity papers.

¹³ The Tripartite Commission was set up in 1991 under ICRC auspices to deal with the question of persons still unaccounted for. It is made up of representatives of France, Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, the United Kingdom and the United States.

THE GULF AFTERMATH OF THE GULF WAR



IN 1999 THE ICRC:

- in Iraq, visited 120 civilian nationals of countries not represented in Iraq since the Gulf war and held at the Abu Ghraib detention centre near Baghdad, and provided one-off assistance;
- in Kuwait, visited 212 civilian nationals of countries without diplomatic representation in Kuwait since the Gulf war in six places of detention;
- in March, repatriated the mortal remains of one Iraqi soldier from Kuwait;
- held three consultation meetings with the parties to the Tripartite Commission to help ascertain the whereabouts and fate of persons unaccounted for since the Gulf war and reactivate the talks;
- collected and distributed 14,000 Red Cross messages exchanged between civilians living in Kuwait, Iraq, Jordan, Saudi Arabia and other countries, and separated as a result of the Gulf war;
- issued 19 travel documents for people leaving to resettle in host countries, and 109 detention certificates.

YEMEN

refugees from the Horn of Africa

*monitoring the treatment
and living conditions of detainees*

*psychiatric care programme
in Yemeni prisons*

*water and sanitation programme
in prisons*

In 1999, Yemen continued to suffer the lasting effects of the 1994 conflict between northern and southern forces, characterized by increased economic hardship for the population, indiscriminate violence against civilians, and kidnappings. Arrests for security reasons were also on the rise.

In view of this unstable situation, which set Yemen apart from the other States in the Arabian Peninsula, the ICRC decided mid-year to make the Yemen office an operational delegation. This should also facilitate the smooth running and continuity of the psychiatric programme in prisons and other ICRC activities in the country.

An estimated 100,000 Somalis and Ethiopians who had sought refuge in Yemen as a result of conflict continued to need help in restoring and maintaining links with their families at home. Together with the Yemen Red Crescent Society, the ICRC transmitted Red Cross messages and dealt with cases of missing persons. Tracing activities were supervised by the ICRC in Kuwait until the end of the year, when the two Somali field officers based in Sana'a had acquired sufficient experience to run the service themselves.

The ICRC, with the support of the Yemen Red Crescent Society, successfully negotiated renewed access to all detainees in accordance with ICRC procedures. A first round of visits - which had been suspended since July 1997 - was carried out in November to the central prisons of Sana'a and Aden, which together held over 3,000 inmates. The ICRC team, which included a medical doctor, conducted over one hundred interviews in private. Earlier, in June, two medical delegates had visited several Yemeni prisons in the framework of the psychiatric care programme (see below).

The assistance programme for mentally-ill detainees in three prisons in Yemen, launched in 1995, was maintained throughout 1999. As in 1998, the project was delegated to the Netherlands Red Cross, which provided an expatriate and funding, and was implemented with the cooperation of the Yemen Red Crescent Society and the support of the Ministries of the Interior and of Health. Under the programme, local doctors and nurses gave medical and psychiatric care to over 200 inmates in the central prisons of Ibb, Sana'a and Taiz. Given the project's success, the Netherlands Red Cross decided to maintain its support for another two years.

The ICRC continued working for the gradual transfer of responsibility for the programme to the authorities and the Yemen Red Crescent Society. Although the economic situation slowed down the handover process considerably, and continued ICRC commitment was required, certain responsibilities were handed over to ICRC local employees and the local authorities in Taiz prison.

In June, the ICRC carried out its annual evaluation of the project. This involved complete visits to the three prisons and to Hodeida detention centre, and to three new prisons (Lahej, Hajjah and Dhamar). In Dhamar, twenty or so mentally-ill prisoners were found to be living in conditions deemed unfitting for their rehabilitation. Steps were taken to transfer them to one of the three ICRC-supported psychiatric sections. The ICRC also visited the general sections of a further seven prisons under the authority of the Ministry of the Interior, in order to assess the overall conditions of detention.

The ICRC carried out maintenance work on the sanitary installations in the prisons of Sana'a, Hodeida, Taiz and Ibb, where it had completed a major project to improve hygiene conditions and water supplies in 1998.

national committee for humanitarian law

The ICRC continued to encourage the Yemeni authorities to undertake legal and administrative steps to implement humanitarian law. On 21 September, the President of the Republic enacted a new law on the protection of the red cross and red crescent emblems. The ICRC, through the Ministry of Legal Affairs and with the support of the National Society, had long advised and encouraged the Yemeni authorities to set up a national committee for humanitarian law. Its efforts bore fruit in December when a presidential decree was published announcing the creation of such a national committee, whose role would be to bring Yemeni legislation in line with humanitarian law, to spread knowledge of the law, and to consult with the government on matters pertaining thereto.

dissemination in academic circles

On 19 and 20 April, a national seminar on humanitarian law was held at the University of Aden. Organized by the ICRC and the Yemen Red Crescent in conjunction with Aden University Law Faculty, the seminar took place under the patronage of the President of the Republic and enabled the forty participants – among them high-ranking representatives of the principal ministries and members of other universities – to explore the concepts of the law in depth.

As in the other Gulf States, the ICRC distributed up-to-date news of its activities in the region and worldwide to a number of local newspapers. In particular, an ICRC article on developments in humanitarian law was published by a major Yemeni newspaper to mark the 50th anniversary of the Geneva Conventions.

working with the National Society

The Yemen Red Crescent Society was again the ICRC's chief partner in Yemen, particularly in the field of dissemination and in the prison psychiatric project. The National Society also backed the ICRC in the negotiations for access to all places of detention.

The general need to make the Yemen Red Crescent Society better known and to boost its image in Yemeni society was the subject of regular discussions throughout the year with the National Society's newly-elected Secretary General. A number of projects were worked out jointly, with the goal of reinforcing the Society's capacity in the field of dissemination and enhancing its members' knowledge of humanitarian law with the assistance of the ICRC's Arabic-speaking dissemination delegate.

IN 1999 THE ICRC:



- handled 3,786 Red Cross messages, mainly on behalf of Somali and Ethiopian refugees;
- visited two prisons with a total population of 3,200 inmates and held private interviews with 103 detainees;
- maintained sanitary installations in the prisons of Sana'a, Hodeida, Taiz and Ibb;



- continued the psychiatric care project for mentally-ill detainees in three central prisons in Yemen, in partnership with the Netherlands Red Cross and the Yemen Red Crescent Society;
- maintained support for National Society programmes aimed at spreading knowledge of humanitarian law and principles among the population;
- together with the Yemen Red Crescent Society, organized lectures on basic humanitarian principles for staff and volunteers from the branches in Sana'a, Taiz and Ibb;
- supported production of National Society/ICRC calendars aimed at enhancing the visibility of the National Society and ensuring improved public knowledge of the Movement and the principles of humanitarian law;



- held a seminar on humanitarian law for high-ranking officers of the armed forces, the security forces and the police, top officials from several Ministries, faculty from Yemen's universities, and the Yemen Red Crescent Society at Aden University (19-20 April).

KUWAIT

Regional delegation

(Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman,
Qatar, Saudi Arabia,
United Arab Emirates)

visits to detainees

*encouraging the implementation
of humanitarian law*

In 1999 the regional delegation again gave priority to efforts to resolve the humanitarian problems arising from the Gulf war,¹⁴ in particular the fate of persons still unaccounted for, and to detention-related activities in Kuwait, Bahrain and Qatar. It also focused on communication strategies with a view to promoting humanitarian law and the ICRC's role as a neutral intermediary in situations of conflict and internal violence, and on raising funds for ICRC activities worldwide.

In June, the ICRC office in Yemen was made an operational delegation.¹⁵

In Kuwait, the ICRC continued to visit nationals of countries who were without diplomatic representation as a result of the Gulf war.¹⁶ It also met with other detainees, so as to gain a more complete picture of conditions in the various places of detention. However it stopped visiting detainees of certain nationalities, for example Jordanians, following the re-establishment of diplomatic relations between their countries and Kuwait.

In Bahrain, the ICRC carried out five series of visits to detainees to monitor their treatment and conditions of detention. It made representations to the Bahraini authorities where necessary.

In Qatar, the ICRC began visiting places of detention, focusing on people detained in connection with the attempted coup d'état of February 1996 and being held under the authority of the Ministries of the Interior and of Defence. The visits were conducted in accordance with ICRC standard procedures and included interviews in private with the detainees. An ICRC physician took part in the first series of visits, in May, and assessed the detainees' state of health and the health care infrastructure in the prisons. During the second series of visits, in October, the same detainees were revisited and three newly-arrested detainees were registered.

Islam has a long tradition of humanitarian principles, in particular during armed conflicts, and the Gulf countries showed a marked interest in contemporary international humanitarian law, which continued to be disseminated in the region. Throughout the year, the ICRC took part in a number of seminars and courses on humanitarian law, with the aim not just of teaching and promoting this body of law, but also of encouraging governments, and in particular the political and military authorities, to introduce national measures for the implementation of their treaty obligations. International as well as local experts, for instance specialists from government legal departments, departments of military justice, universities and Red Crescent Societies, played an active role as lecturers.

Highlights of the year included a two-day seminar on humanitarian law organized by the Qatari Ministry of Foreign Affairs on the initiative of the ICRC, which was attended by some 30 high-ranking government officials and the National Societies of the region, and a two-day seminar on humanitarian law in Saudi Arabia organized by the Institute of Diplomatic Studies, which is run by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Participants included government officials, high-ranking military officers and students from the Institute. An ICRC legal specialist and a representative of the Saudi Arabian Red Crescent Society were among the guest speakers.

In addition, the ICRC pursued regular contacts with the relevant ministries with a view to discussing the incorporation of humanitarian law into national legislation.

¹⁴ See p. 326.

¹⁵ See p. 328.

¹⁶ See p. 326.

*ICRC Vice-President
in Saudi Arabia*

*promoting humanitarian law
among the armed forces*

*dissemination
for the general public*

*cooperation
with National Societies*

This entailed keeping the authorities abreast of ICRC activities in the region and worldwide, for instance by providing updated information to the various ministries, the Organization of the Islamic Conference in Saudi Arabia, and academic institutions.

The ICRC Vice-President visited Riyadh from 10 to 15 May, at the invitation of the Saudi Minister for Foreign Affairs, and met a number of high-ranking dignitaries, in particular the Crown Prince. Issues raised during the talks included the problem of persons unaccounted for since the Gulf war, the need to increase awareness of humanitarian law in the region, and the international aid provided by the Saudi Arabian Red Crescent Society for Kosovo. The visit also provided the ICRC with an opportunity to express its wish to consolidate existing links and to broaden and diversify its funding by enlisting the support of other countries in the region.

The ICRC Vice-President was also received by the President and Vice-President of the Saudi Arabian Red Crescent Society.

The ICRC pursued its goal of promoting the incorporation of humanitarian law into training courses for the armed forces in the Gulf region. Two major seminars on the law of armed conflict were organized in Kuwait in March for officers of the National Guard and, for the first time, in Oman in May for officers from the various branches of the armed forces.

In addition to these events, the ICRC gave a number of presentations and lectures on the law of armed conflict and the Movement, for instance to the military police in Kuwait, and to students of the Command and Staff Colleges in Oman and in Kuwait; all the Gulf countries were represented at the latter. In the United Arab Emirates, the ICRC led a dissemination session followed by a discussion on humanitarian law for 16 staff officers involved in organizing a special humanitarian operation for refugees in the Balkans.

The ICRC also pursued its efforts to improve knowledge and understanding of humanitarian law and the Movement among the media and academic circles, which were then able to relay this knowledge to the public in the region. Articles on humanitarian law drafted by the regional delegation were regularly published in newspapers in all the region's countries, and radio and TV stations broadcast information on ICRC activities in the region and worldwide, thus increasing the organization's visibility throughout the Gulf States. The ICRC-published bi-monthly magazine, "Al Insani (The Humanitarian)", was also distributed to academic circles and to all Red Crescent Societies in the Arabian Peninsula. In particular, a special article written by the regional delegation was published in various newspapers in the region to mark the 50th anniversary of the Geneva Conventions.

The ICRC continued to have a fruitful dialogue with the National Societies of the region. It worked to increase knowledge of the ICRC by regularly providing the National Societies with updated news about ICRC activities in the region and worldwide, and information on humanitarian law for publication in their magazines.



IN 1999 THE ICRC:

- visited 212 detainees in six places of detention in Kuwait;
- carried out five series of visits to detainees in Bahrain;
- carried out three series of visits to 36 detainees in five places of detention in Qatar;
- kept the Red Crescent Societies of the Arabian Peninsula informed about ICRC activities in the region and worldwide by regularly sending them updated newsletters;
- in Qatar, took part in a two-day seminar on humanitarian law, attended by 30 high-level government officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Interior and the Ministry of Defence;
- in Saudi Arabia, took part in a two-day seminar on humanitarian law at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Institute of Diplomatic Studies;
- in Kuwait, organized a five-day seminar on the law of armed conflict at the National Guard Headquarters in March, attended by 17 officers with operational responsibilities;
- gave four presentations on humanitarian law, ICRC activities and the Red Cross/Red Crescent Movement to members of the Kuwaiti armed forces and the police;
- in Oman, organized a four-day seminar on the law of armed conflict at armed forces headquarters in Muscat, attended by 31 officers from the various branches of the armed forces, the national guard and civil police;
- gave a presentation on humanitarian law at the Staff and Command College in Muscat, for 51 students and 13 members of the teaching staff;
- held a dissemination session in the United Arab Emirates for 16 staff officers involved in planning a special humanitarian operation for refugees in the Balkans;
- in Kuwait, gave three lectures on the ICRC and the Red Cross/Red Crescent Movement for around 160 university students;
- on the anniversary of the International Declaration of Human Rights, on 4 December, ran a stand at a three-day seminar/exhibition in Kuwait, organized under the patronage of the President of the Arab Organization for Human Rights;
- regularly provided the local press with articles for publication covering ICRC activities in the region and worldwide and on humanitarian law;
- distributed 600 copies of the ICRC-published magazine, "Al Insani (The Humanitarian)", every two months, to universities, Red Crescent Societies and newspapers across the region;
- gave a live interview on the Kosovo crisis and humanitarian law on Qatar-based Jezirah Satellite Television station in April.

EGYPT

*compulsory training
in humanitarian law for civilian
and military judges*

implementing humanitarian law

*top-level regional conference
on humanitarian law*

As in the past, the ICRC delegation in Cairo focused on promoting humanitarian law and the organization's various activities in Egypt and throughout the Arab world. To this end, it consolidated its contacts with the Egyptian authorities, the armed forces, the Egyptian Red Crescent Society, university circles and the media, and produced materials and dissemination tools specially adapted to the local context. Considerable progress was made in 1999 towards the incorporation of humanitarian law into national legislation and in the dissemination of humanitarian law in legal circles.

A signal development in 1999 was the introduction, pursuant to an ICRC proposal, of humanitarian law as an integral part of training for civilian and military magistrates, in accordance with an agreement signed with the National Centre for Judiciary Studies. This institution, which comes under the joint authority of the Ministries of Justice and of Defence, is in charge of providing formal and practical instruction for trainee judges. Regular humanitarian law teaching began in March and was dispensed by Egyptian professors and ICRC legal experts. The ICRC determined the content of the classes, chose the teachers and provided documentation.

Additional training courses were organized for already qualified judges in August, and for public prosecutors in July and September. In November, a full instruction programme for 32 judges and prosecutors from civil and military courts was organized by ICRC experts, university professors and armed forces officers, after which the delegation launched a competition on humanitarian law for the participants.

In another development, the Egyptian authorities lent their full support to the start of the process of revising national laws to incorporate measures for the implementation of humanitarian law. The ICRC drafted a plan of action which it shared with the leadership of the Egyptian Red Crescent Society – which is spearheading the process – before being submitted to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Throughout the year, an ICRC legal advisor held meetings with officials from different ministries to look at ways of translating the Egyptian State's legal obligations into action. He helped draft a preliminary national report outlining Egypt's position on several conventions and protocols and the situation of national legislation with regard to treaties of humanitarian law.

Another highlight was the regional conference, organized from 14 to 16 November by the Egyptian Ministry of Justice in cooperation with the Arab League, the ICRC and the Egyptian Red Crescent, to mark the 50th anniversary of the Geneva Conventions. The conference was attended by representatives of the Ministries of Justice of Algeria, Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq, Syria and the United Arab Emirates, or by these countries' diplomatic representatives in Cairo, and by the National Societies of a dozen countries in the region. Numerous Arab and European humanitarian law specialists also participated.

The conference was opened by the ICRC President, the President of the Federation, and the Secretary General of the Arab League, and held under the auspices of the Egyptian Minister of Justice and the Egyptian Prime Minister. It covered the history and development of international humanitarian law and its application by the military authorities at national level. The role of the Red Cross/Red Crescent Movement in promoting and implementing humanitarian law was also discussed.

*Memorandum of Understanding
signed with the Arab League*

dissemination to the armed forces

*Regional Promotion Office
based in Cairo*

*ICRC regional news
bulletin consolidated*

*media contacts and production
in the Arab world*

At the end of the conference, the participants adopted the "Cairo Declaration" asserting the need for commitment to and respect for humanitarian law, and a plan of action for each Arab State in terms of implementation at the national level was drawn up. A follow-up conference was planned for 2000.

During the conference, the ICRC President met the President of the Egyptian People's Assembly to discuss national measures of implementation. He also met the head of the Egyptian armed forces to discuss training of the military on the law of war.

The ICRC continued to work with the League of Arab States with a view to promoting humanitarian law in the Arab world and addressing mutual humanitarian concerns. This cooperation was formalized in 1999 with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding, which had been under negotiation for some years, between the Secretary General of the Arab League and the ICRC President on 15 November. The Memorandum covers cooperation and consultation between the two institutions on subjects of common interest, their participation in each other's conferences, and the exchange of information.

The delegate to the armed forces based in Cairo again covered all Arabic-speaking countries, acting as coordinator and adviser to the other delegations. In the course of the year, he visited a number of countries and organized seminars on the basics of humanitarian law and workshops to train instructors.

In Egypt itself, officers and instructors from the Military College for Administrative Science, the Military Intelligence Department at the Ministry of Defence, and the Defence College of Nasser Academy, as well as military judges and prosecutors from the armed forces legal department, attended ICRC presentations on humanitarian law. Although these were mostly Egyptians, some students from the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait also participated. Topics looked at in these sessions included the role of the ICRC in the implementation of humanitarian law during the Gulf war, the conduct of military operations, and the training needed in this regard during tactical exercises. In 1999, the ICRC also held the first course ever for 60 officers from the Egyptian navy and air force.

Through its Regional Promotion Office, set up at the Cairo delegation in 1998, the ICRC worked to raise its profile in the Arab world and to promote acceptance of the principles of humanitarian law in conflict and non-conflict situations by producing promotional materials specially adapted to the region's public. It ensured that the materials were widely distributed by ICRC delegations in the Middle East, and provided support for their activities to promote humanitarian rules and principles.

In 1999, six issues of the ICRC's magazine in Arabic, "Al Insani (The Humanitarian)", which was launched at the end of 1998, were produced and distributed via the delegations in the Middle East and North Africa. They were also sent to relevant ICRC contacts in Geneva, New York and Paris.

The Regional Promotion Office also increasingly diversified into the world of audio-visual media. This involved translating and dubbing ICRC video spots into Arabic and producing a number of documentary films on major aspects of humanitarian law and themes, such as children in war. The Regional Promotion Office also represented the ICRC at numerous events such as international film festivals and bookfairs.

academic circles

The regional delegation addressed the Fourth National Conference for the Modernization of Legal Studies at Egypt's Mansura University in March, calling for the inclusion of humanitarian law in university curricula. ICRC representatives regularly gave talks on humanitarian law and the Movement to students. They cooperated in particular with the National Centre for Middle East Studies and with the Centre for Political and Strategic Studies in Cairo, organizing gatherings and providing speakers. Themes looked at over the year included humanitarian law and conflict resolution, the refugee problem in the Arab world, and humanitarianism within the Arab tradition. The ICRC also took part in the annual summer course on human rights at the Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies.

working with journalists

Also of note was a training course organized by the regional delegation for students and journalists at the Regional Press Institute in November. The protection of journalists during war and the role of the media in armed conflict were among the topics dealt with.

campaign against landmines

The issue of anti-personnel landmines attracted much attention in Egypt throughout the year, particularly after the international ambassador of the International Campaign to Ban Landmines and Nobel Peace Prize laureate Jody Williams visited the Al-Alamein minefields in early February. Egyptian soil still contains millions of mines laid during the Second World War by foreign troops. The ICRC gave talks on the legal and humanitarian aspects of landmines and provided audio-visual material.

cooperation programmes with the Egyptian Red Crescent

Cooperation between the ICRC and the Egyptian Red Crescent focused on dissemination, emergency preparedness and tracing activities. ICRC representatives both organized and took part in basic training courses for various target groups - youth disseminators, medical staff and branch managers - at the National Society branch in Zeinoh, Cairo. Highlights of the year included two seminars on medical emergencies in May and September - in which an ICRC war surgeon instructed National Society and other medical staff from across the country on the application of the "mass casualty approach" and wound management - and a five-day training course on crisis management and capacity building for senior National Society personnel in July, with speakers selected by the ICRC from the Egyptian armed forces, UNHCR and the Federation.

In the first week of June, a tracing delegate from ICRC headquarters visited the Egyptian Red Crescent headquarters in Cairo and the Alexandria and Giza branches, to assess existing National Society tracing methods and evaluate needs, and to provide individual coaching in the branches.

IN 1999 THE ICRC:



- restored and maintained links between members of separated families, mainly nationals from the Horn of Africa and people displaced by the conflict in southern Sudan, by handling 241 Red Cross messages and issuing 1,012 travel documents for refugees, displaced or stateless people, in cooperation with the Egyptian Red Crescent Society;



- took part in two basic training courses and three workshops for around 50 Egyptian Red Crescent youth disseminators and youth leaders from across the country, and gave an introductory talk on humanitarian law for new members of the National Society's Youth Club at Egyptian Red Crescent headquarters in Zeinhor, Cairo;
- took part in two seminars lasting a total of nine days for National Society medical staff to help develop the National Society's emergency capacity;
- organized, jointly with the Egyptian Red Crescent, a five-day training course from 4-8 July on crisis management for 22 senior National Society staff;



- organized a series of lectures and practical exercises for future civilian and military magistrates;
- took part in an Arab League conference on humanitarian law and arms control in June, giving a presentation and providing documentation in Arabic;
- gave four courses on humanitarian law and the law of armed conflict for 123 officers and instructors of the Egyptian armed forces;
- organized a course on the basics of humanitarian law for 185 officers in Jordan;
- on 8 May, took part in a live-link video conference on the significance of Red Cross/Red Crescent Day and on ICRC and National Society activities, with education specialists and representatives of student bodies from the country's 26 governorates, at the invitation of the Egyptian Ministry of Education;
- organized a gathering of 60 participants, including representatives of the Presidency, the Foreign Ministry, the Defence Ministry, law professors, diplomats and the press, at the National Centre for Middle East Studies;
- produced six issues of "Al Insani (The Humanitarian)", the ICRC's magazine in Arabic, whose distribution throughout the Arab world increased from 3,000 to 7,000 over the year;
- produced three series of comic strips with a humanitarian message for a major Egyptian youth magazine, and, for the first time, co-published two comic books with an Egyptian publisher, thus gaining access to the network of bookshops in the Arab countries;
- co-published, with an Egyptian publisher, a book containing a collection of true stories of war victims and humanitarian workers;
- produced four short films on humanitarian issues, with guest appearances by film stars;
- produced two documentary films about the humanitarian situation in Iraq;
- dubbed ICRC films and spots into Arabic for the "People on War" and the Ottawa landmines treaty campaigns;
- translated numerous ICRC brochures and publications into Arabic and reprinted the teaching file for armed forces instructors.

TUNIS

Regional delegation

(Algeria, Libya, Mauritania,
Morocco/Western Sahara, Tunisia)

*renewed access to detainees
in Algeria*

*support for victims of violence
in Algeria*

In 1999, the Tunis regional delegation again focused on the humanitarian issues arising from the aftermath of the Western Sahara conflict. It also started visits to detainees in Algeria and developed its cooperation with the Algerian Red Crescent Society in providing assistance for victims of violence. The ICRC's work in the countries of the Maghreb also involved promotion of humanitarian law, spreading knowledge of ICRC activities and humanitarian diplomacy.

The situation in Algeria, which since 1992 had been regularly afflicted by unspeakable acts of violence, continued to be a major cause for humanitarian concern. The election of a new Algerian President in April 1999 gave rise to fresh hopes for national reconciliation. When put to a referendum on 16 September 1999, the law on civilian reconciliation received the overwhelming support of the Algerian people.

There was still no breakthrough on the Western Sahara issue, despite intensive efforts by the UN. Over 1,800 Moroccan prisoners were still detained by the Polisario Front, and about 150,000 Sahrawi refugees, according to official figures, were still living in precarious conditions in camps in the region of Tindouf.

The year under review saw the death of King Hassan II of Morocco and the accession to the throne of his son King Mohammed VI in July.

International sanctions imposed on Libya were suspended in April 1999, following the handover of two suspects for trial under Scottish law in connection with the Lockerbie bombing in 1989.

Following a mission by the ICRC Director of Operations to Algiers in November 1998 to resume talks on ICRC activities in Algeria,¹⁷ the Algerian authorities wrote to the ICRC on 16 March expressing their willingness to allow it to visit all persons held under the responsibility of the Ministry of Justice. A first technical mission to Algeria was carried out from 14 to 16 June. Questions discussed with representatives of the Ministries of Justice and Foreign Affairs included ICRC standard procedures, such as repeated visits, access to all detainees and private interviews with detainees selected by the ICRC.

These procedures having all been accepted, the ICRC carried out a first series of visits from 10 October to 15 November to places of detention under the responsibility of the Ministry of Justice in Algiers, Annaba and Oran. The delegates, including one medical doctor, were given full access to all premises and all detainees in each location. In all, twelve places of detention holding 6,980 inmates were visited, and interviews in private were held with 457 detainees. The resumption of visits to detainees had been a major ICRC goal ever since visits were suspended in 1992.

The ICRC's findings concerning the conditions of detention and the problems raised by the detainees were discussed with the detaining authorities. A first report was drawn up for submission to the Algerian government in early January 2000.

In 1996, the ICRC started providing financial support for the Algerian Red Crescent's assistance programmes for vulnerable families during the holy month of Ramadan and for the organization of summer camps for needy children. In 1999, it increased its cooperation by supporting a new National Society programme to provide psychological assistance for the victims of the violence in Algeria, in particular traumatized children and women.

¹⁷ See the ICRC's 1998 Annual Report, pp. 299-300.

*new psycho-social
rehabilitation programme*

*developing the Algerian Red
Crescent's operational capacity*

*aftermath of the Morocco/Western
Sahara conflict*

*ICRC calls for repatriation
of detainees*

The primary aim of the programme was to respond to some of the most pressing needs by supporting both State-run centres – where affected children received assistance and psychologists and social workers training – and Algerian Red Crescent workshops, where women could find psychological support and learn a trade, and hence gradually be reintegrated into society. Three new workshops had been set up by the end of the year. ICRC support included the services of a psychiatrist, the distribution of material, books and texts, and funding.

Hand-in-hand with the above programme, the ICRC decided to help the Algerian Red Crescent strengthen its operational capacity, in particular its national first-aid network and its activities to spread knowledge of humanitarian law. A joint ICRC–Swedish Red Cross mission was carried out to Algiers in August to assess the National Society's needs in terms of first-aid equipment and training.

The ICRC worked to reinforce the National Society's capacity to spread knowledge of humanitarian law by providing materials on the subject and communications equipment. It helped organize dissemination training seminars and create dissemination tools such as publications and radio and TV programmes.

For over 20 years the repercussions of the conflict in the Western Sahara have been felt by thousands of people, including around 1,800 Moroccan prisoners held by the Polisario Front. The UN settlement plan, drawn up in 1991, had provided for the repatriation of all the captives only after the registration of everyone eligible to vote in a referendum on self-determination for the people of the Western Sahara. This thus linked the issue of the prisoners to a political settlement. The referendum has been postponed on numerous occasions, most recently until 2002.

In early 1999, in addition to the some 1,800 still held prisoner, 83 people released in April 1997¹⁸ were still awaiting repatriation because Morocco was opposed as a matter of principle to any repatriation which did not encompass all the prisoners.

Year after year the ICRC has reiterated that, under the provisions of humanitarian law, all prisoners must be repatriated as soon as active hostilities cease. In 1999, it repeatedly expressed its concern about the plight of all these men, most of whom were captured between 1978 and 1982, and made representations to all the parties concerned in order to find a humanitarian solution as soon as possible. The ICRC, which visits the prisoners regularly, has spared no effort in recent years to secure their unconditional release and repatriation in accordance with humanitarian law.

On 8 January, the ICRC President met the Polisario Front Coordinator for the UN Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara at ICRC headquarters. The President reiterated the ICRC's willingness to repatriate all persons detained in relation to the conflict and to undertake all necessary steps to ascertain the whereabouts of combatants from both sides who were still missing.

In 1999, a team of ICRC delegates including a doctor, an ophthalmologist and a dentist carried out two visits to the Moroccan prisoners, in March and in May. They saw over 1,500 of the Moroccan prisoners held by the Polisario Front, as well as the 83 prisoners released in April 1997 who were still awaiting repatriation.

The doctor drew up a list of prisoners who should be transferred to hospital for medical treatment. For many, the only possibility of receiving proper examination and

¹⁸ In April 1997, following a visit to Tindouf by a special UN envoy, 85 vulnerable (elderly and seriously ill) prisoners were released by the Polisario Front. Two of them have since died in Tindouf without being reunited with their families.

concern for detainees' health

restoring family links

disseminating humanitarian law

treatment lay in repatriation. ICRC delegates noted that the prisoners were pinning their hopes on the new timetable for the UN settlement plan, and that any further deferral would have a disastrous effect on their already weak health and low morale.

In August the ICRC received the green light from the Polisario Front and the Algerian authorities to transfer five Moroccan prisoners urgently in need of medical treatment from their camp in Tindouf to hospital in Algiers, in coordination with the Algerian Red Crescent. The ICRC subsequently repatriated the five to Morocco on 23 November, when the Polisario Front handed over to the UN Secretary-General's Special Representative a list of 191 Moroccan prisoners who had been freed on humanitarian grounds. The ICRC offered its services to the Polisario Front and to the Moroccan government for the repatriation of the remaining 186 prisoners on the list, including the 83 already released, in an operation that was due to be organized in early 2000.

Throughout the year, a thousand kilos of family parcels and Red Cross messages received from Moroccan families were sent via the Algerian Red Crescent to the prisoners in the Tindouf area. At the end of July, an ICRC delegate met with families of the prisoners in Casablanca and Rabat, passing on news of their relatives following the ICRC's most recent visit and giving them the opportunity to write Red Cross messages.

In 1999, growing interest for humanitarian law and for its dissemination was discernible in the region, as was the wish on the part of the National Societies to play a leading role in this field.

In Morocco, a series of meetings was held with the Minister of Education and the Minister for Human Rights, to discuss ways of disseminating and implementing humanitarian law. In Tunisia, the ICRC met with a number of senior Tunisian officials, including the Minister of Higher Education, the President of the Arab Institute for Human Rights, and the Director of the International Studies Association. The discussions revolved around cooperation between these institutions, in particular for the events marking the 50th anniversary of the Geneva Conventions.

Significant efforts were undertaken to pursue the promotion of humanitarian law within Moroccan academic circles, in cooperation with the Moroccan Red Crescent. In January and June, an ICRC representative went to Morocco where he visited the law faculties of Oujda, Casablanca and Mohammedia Universities and the Higher Institute for Information and Communication in Rabat. He gave lectures on the Movement and the Geneva Conventions and completed the distribution of standard collections of humanitarian law books in these institutions. In October, the University of Casablanca started a "research and training unit" for postgraduate students, comprising 40 hours of teaching on humanitarian law and 40 hours on the Movement.

From 10 to 15 June, the ICRC carried out a mission to Nouakchott, Mauritania, where humanitarian law had already been integrated into the teaching programme for the armed forces and the National Guard. In September, the subject was introduced as part of the "civic instruction" course for high-school students.

Also in Mauritania, the ICRC organized a seminar in April on "Humanitarian Law, Human Rights and the Security Forces" at the National Guard Headquarters in Nouakchott. It was attended by instruction officers from the National Guard, the police, the army, and the gendarmerie. It was the first time this topic, in a form adapted to the participants' daily work, was dealt with in a seminar in the Maghreb.

focusing on journalists

cooperation with the National Societies

50th anniversary of the Geneva Conventions

In Tunisia, the ICRC gave lectures on humanitarian law and the Movement to students at the Institute for Diplomatic Studies, after which the Board of Directors expressed the wish to incorporate the humanitarian law course into the Institute's curriculum.

A team from the Faculty of Law and Political Sciences of the University of Tunis took part in the 11th Jean Pictet Moot Court Competition in Greece from 20 to 28 March. The team received financial and academic support from the ICRC, and expressed the wish to participate regularly in the future.

The regional delegation worked on developing its relations with the media, which play a major role in relaying knowledge of humanitarian law and ICRC activities. A seminar for Moroccan journalists, focusing on the responsibility of the media in promoting better awareness among the public of humanitarian rules and principles, was organized in Rabat in November by the ICRC in cooperation with the Moroccan Red Crescent and the Moroccan Journalists' Union. A competition for journalists was subsequently launched on the theme of the 50th anniversary of the Geneva Conventions.

The ICRC also contributed to a number of regional seminars on themes related to its mandate. In January, the regional delegation took part in a seminar on anti-personnel landmines for the countries of the Maghreb and in March it gave a presentation on the situation of children in armed conflicts at a regional conference on children's rights, both organized by the Arab Institute for Human Rights in Tunis. Arab NGOs, government representatives, the Arab League, and UNICEF were among the participants.

Throughout the year the ICRC continued to cooperate with the region's National Societies, particularly as regards the promotion of humanitarian law within civil society. This entailed boosting the National Societies' information and dissemination capacity by providing material on the Movement and equipment and by supporting their events - organized either for Red Crescent volunteers or for the public at large - by giving presentations on humanitarian law and helping out with funding.

The 50th anniversary of the Geneva Conventions provided a particularly good opportunity for joint activities. From 10 to 18 August, the regional delegate went to Mauritania to take part in a Mauritanian Red Crescent workshop for Mauritanian journalists, NGOs and representatives of UN organizations and in a training seminar in the town of Kaedi for 30 women who were heads of National Society branches. The delegate gave talks on fund-raising and tracing activities.

In Tunisia, the ICRC gave lectures on humanitarian law and the Movement to young Tunisian Red Crescent volunteers and first-aiders. In a congress on emergency preparedness organized by the National Society in Monsatir on 25 July, ICRC representatives gave a presentation on how to set up camps for displaced persons. Besides Red Crescent volunteers, the representatives of several ministries attended.

Also to mark the 50th anniversary, the ICRC regional delegation, together with the Tunisian Association of International and Transnational Law, organized a symposium in Tunis in November. Held under the patronage of the President of the Republic, the symposium afforded university professors from North Africa, Europe and America an opportunity to discuss recent developments in humanitarian law. The ICRC presented the results of its worldwide consultation on the rules of war and distributed copies of the "People on War" report to the participants.

IN 1999 THE ICRC:



- carried out a first series of visits in Algeria to 12 places of detention holding a total of 6,980 inmates and held interviews in private with 457 detainees;
- visited, in March and May, 1,556 Moroccan prisoners being held by the Polisario Front in 12 places of detention, including the 83 men released in 1997 and still awaiting repatriation;
- restored and maintained contact between Moroccan prisoners and their families by forwarding 33,679 Red Cross messages (10,447 from the prisoners and 23,232 from their families);
- sent 507 family parcels to Moroccan prisoners via the Algerian Red Crescent;
- improved health care for Moroccan prisoners in Tindouf by providing ad hoc medical and dental assistance;
- transferred five sick Moroccan prisoners, released for humanitarian reasons, from their camp to a hospital in Algiers on 17 August and subsequently repatriated them to Morocco in November;
- provided 2.6 tonnes of essential medical supplies, including material for prostheses, as well as books, games and other leisure items, for the Moroccan prisoners and for the Sahrawi population;



- in Algeria, continued to give financial support for the National Society's Ramadan programme through which soup kitchens were organized and material supplies were distributed to especially needy families;
- supported eight two-week summer camps, organized by the Algerian Red Crescent, for over 15,000 children traumatized by violence;
- provided material and technical support for Algerian Red Crescent programmes to provide psychological care for women and children traumatized by violence;
- on 8 May, gave two presentations on humanitarian law and the Movement for 30 young Tunisian Red Crescent volunteers;
- gave a lecture on humanitarian law and the Movement for Tunisian Red Crescent first-aiders, as part of a regional first-aid seminar organized by the National Society from 15 to 27 August which was also attended by around 100 Tunisian university students;
- continued to provide monthly financial support for the Mauritanian Red Crescent's Information Department; donated audio-visual equipment in order to boost its information and dissemination capacity;
- worked to strengthen the Oudja section of the Moroccan Red Crescent by providing dissemination material on the Movement and by visiting its seven health centres;
- regularly provided promotional material and books for the Moroccan Red Crescent's documentation centre in Rabat;

NORTH AFRICA TUNIS



- in Mauritania, held a seminar on humanitarian law, human rights and the security forces for 26 officer instructors from the army and police;
- in Morocco, inaugurated a series of courses on humanitarian law and the Movement at the Higher Institute for Information and Communication in Rabat, which was attended by over 1,000 people;
- in Tunisia, gave lectures on the Movement, ICRC activities and humanitarian law at the Institute for Diplomatic Studies and Continuing Education and at the Institute of the Press and the Science of Information;
- co-organized, together with the Tunisian Association of International and Transnational Law, a symposium to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Geneva Conventions in Tunis on 26 and 27 November;
- took part in the first-ever regional seminar on anti-personnel landmines for countries of the Maghreb on 25 and 26 January in Tunis;
- gave a report on the situation of children in armed conflicts at an Arab regional conference on the rights of children, organized by the Arab Institute for Human Rights in Tunis from 12 to 14 March;
- for the second year running, co-produced 30 episodes of a radio drama series with National Moroccan Radio, with the support of the ICRC Regional Promotion Office in Cairo, to be broadcast during Ramadan, raising listeners' awareness of the importance of protecting civilians' rights at all times.

PEOPLE ON WAR



"We cannot stop war but at least we should have some values to be respected.
We had more values in the Middle Ages..."

"A country like this won't get back to prosperity if it doesn't get back its soul."



"The war is not over un"

"There have to be rules that are obeyed.
Every man has to act as a human for himself...
because he must live with himself after the war."

PEOPLE ON WAR



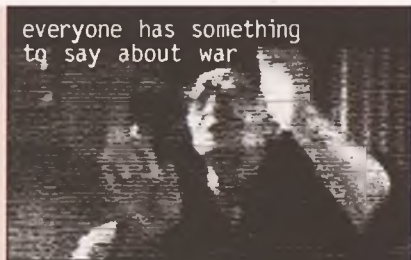
"Under no circumstances
should civilians become
military targets...
if we start to allow that,
there will be
no end to it."

"The question is,
how normal were we when
we were in the field."

"I want to get my child back."

"In every country they have treaties
defending civilians,
otherwise everyone would be dead."

everyone has something
to say about war



HOW
ABOUT
YOU?

<http://www.onwar.org>



A year marked by the 50th anniversary of the Geneva Conventions

The year under review marked the 50th anniversary of the Geneva Conventions. While obviously not an occasion for lavish celebration - what delight can there be in commemorating treaties that simply alleviate certain effects of conflict, without actually eradicating the horrors of war - the anniversary nevertheless prompted much-needed thought on the Conventions, their relevance to modern-day conflict, ways to improve compliance and their possible development. The ICRC carried out two major projects aimed at encouraging reflection on these issues.

The first project offered people directly or indirectly affected by armed conflict the opportunity to speak about their perception of war and the rules of humanitarian law. Those interviewed were also asked to share their views on why those rules were violated and how to prevent such violations. The project, entitled "People on War", was undertaken in twelve different countries and provided valuable insights for the ICRC's ongoing consideration of what needs to be done to ensure that humanitarian law is more fully understood, accepted and respected.

The second project aimed to clarify the provisions of customary international humanitarian law. How do States understand and fulfil their treaty-based obligations? By which rules do they feel legally bound above and beyond these obligations? How do they apply those rules on the ground? The research carried out systematically since 1997 in all regions of the world was completed, as was the thematic consolidation phase conducted with the assistance of international lawyers from around the world. The results, which will be published in 2000, will no doubt make it possible, through a better understanding of the current situation, to identify courses of action that will lead to improved compliance and to the development of humanitarian law in the future.

The year under review provided an ideal platform for this reflection, since it was also the year in which the 27th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent was held, bringing together the States party to the Geneva Conventions, the National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and the ICRC. The International Conference, which dates back to 1867 and is held in principle every four years, had been somewhat undermined by the political setbacks encountered in 1986 and the cancellation of the Conference that should have been held in 1991. The success of the 1995 Conference therefore needed to be reconfirmed, and it was. The political difficulties inherent in such meetings were overcome, and the Conference took place in a positive and constructive atmosphere. The opening of the Conference to all major governmental and non-governmental organizations active in humanitarian emergencies, the organization of workshops open to the public, the call on participants to make specific individual pledges and the adoption of a Plan of Action to be used to measure progress, enabled the Conference to fulfil its role as a major world forum on humanitarian issues. A tradition that has proved its value and that should be maintained has therefore been reinforced.

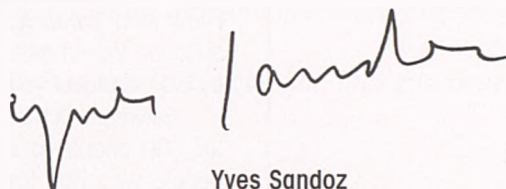
Conflicts and the effects of war not only on countries that are the theatre of hostilities, but also on neighbouring countries that are often affected by an influx of

refugees, required increasingly intensive action by the components of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. This put to the test the Agreement adopted in Seville at the end of 1997 governing the organization of the Movement's international activities. That the coordination of such activities and the spirit in which they are carried out have already improved is beyond dispute, even though much remains to be learned from these new experiences. Of all the tragic events that occurred during the year, the Balkans conflict, which received a disproportionate amount of media coverage in comparison to other dramatic situations, raised essential questions concerning the legality of the use of force and the interpretation of certain rules of international law. The ICRC has initiated a dialogue to discuss these issues, particularly in military circles, which it should no doubt pursue and strengthen in the years to come.

On 12 August 1999, the 50th anniversary of the Geneva Conventions, fourteen people of international repute, including the Secretary-General of the United Nations, met in Geneva at the invitation of the ICRC. They launched a solemn appeal underlining how important they consider the Conventions to be and expressing their conviction that the Conventions remained as valid and relevant as ever. In particular, they called on the peoples of the world to respect at all times the fundamental principles on which the Conventions are founded:

- respect for human dignity in all circumstances;
- compassion for those who suffer;
- solidarity.

May their appeal be heeded.



Yves Sandoz
Director for International Law and Communication

50th ANNIVERSARY OF THE 1949 GENEVA CONVENTIONS

People on war

world-wide consultation

The 50th Anniversary of the Geneva Conventions provided the ideal opportunity to begin this process and to raise public awareness and further debate on the limits on war, and the "People on War" project, which came into full swing in 1999, the best means of doing so. Central to the project was a world-wide consultation aimed at helping people "in" war by listening to people "on" war. Civilians and combatants alike were asked to share their experiences, express their opinions on the basic rules that should apply in war, discuss why those rules were sometimes broken and look at what the future held. What better way to help determine the shared human principles that formal law and military practice should build on; to establish how far the limits on war correspond to human nature and desires; to gain insight into the complex dilemmas facing people in the midst of conflict; and to gather the suggestions of war victims on ways to achieve greater humanity in conflict?

The ICRC commissioned Greenberg Research, Inc. to design the research programme and guide the ICRC staff and Red Cross and Red Crescent volunteers who carried out the consultation in 12 countries affected by war: Afghanistan, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Cambodia, Colombia, El Salvador, Georgia/Abkhazia, Israel/the occupied territories and the autonomous territories, Lebanon, Nigeria, the Philippines, Somalia and South Africa. In all these countries, staff conducted face-to-face interviews, group discussions and national public opinion surveys on the basis of statistical questionnaires. National surveys were also conducted in France, the Russian Federation, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and the United States, so that the consultation would reflect the perceptions of people who had not been directly affected by war in recent years as well.

Between October 1998 and September 1999, the ICRC thus enabled over 20,000 people to voice their views in over 14,000 hours of interviews: ordinary people who had lost their homes, soldiers, doctors and prisoners of war, people whose loved ones had gone missing, guerilla fighters and members of paramilitary groups, NGOs and international peace-keepers. About 20,000 questionnaires were collected and processed, and over 250 individual and 100 focus-group discussions were recorded and transcribed, yielding one of the biggest and most innovative bodies of social research on war ever compiled.

The survey gave a voice to people as individuals, with their hopes and dignity, their vast and valuable experience, and the potential to shape their own future. It will allow for a much more subtle appreciation of what really happens and matters in societies devastated by war, and will help to have a greater influence on the conduct of war and the fate of its victims in the years to come.

As planned, the final "People on War" report was presented to the 27th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, on 1 November 1999. The consultation was made public in the hope that it would stir local and international debate on the humanitarian aspects of war - a debate that should be joined by the major political players, international and non-governmental organizations and

Solemn Appeal and Signatories

The universally recognized Geneva Conventions were adopted in this city 50 years ago today. The States Parties thereby declared their refusal to see the unprecedented horrors of the Second World War repeated.

Since then, these treaties have helped to alleviate much suffering but have not been able to prevent millions of innocent people from falling victim to the conflicts that have ravaged our planet.

Although they are often breached, the Geneva Conventions and the principles on which they are founded remain as valid and relevant as ever.

That is the opinion of thousands of individuals across the world who bear the physical and mental scars of war. Men, women and children have all talked about their experiences, their fears and their expectations. They are the voices of war, and we are convinced that these expectations can be met.

We have come together in Geneva to make a solemn appeal to all peoples, nations and governments. We call on the world:

- to reject the idea that war is inevitable and to work tirelessly to eradicate its underlying causes;*
- to demand of all those involved in armed conflicts and all who are in a position to influence the course of such conflicts that they respect the essential humanitarian principles and the rules of international humanitarian law;*
- to spare civilians the agony of war;*
- to foster relations between individuals, peoples and nations on the basis of the principles that inspired the Geneva Conventions, namely,*
 - respect for human dignity in all circumstances;*
 - compassion for those who suffer;*
 - solidarity.*

We are convinced that disregard for these principles sets the stage for war and that respecting them during wartime facilitates the restoration of peace.

On the eve of a new millennium, let us all undertake to defend these principles and thus give hope to future generations.

The Signatories of the appeal were:

H.H. Prince Sadraddin Aga Khan

Mr Kofi Annan, Secretary-General of the United Nations

Ms Shabana Azmi, India, actress

H.R.H. Prince El Hassan bin Talal of Jordan

Ms Geraldine Chaplin, United Kingdom, actress

Ms Fayrouz, Lebanon, singer and poet

Mr Serge Klarsfeld, France, historian, President of the Association Fils et Filles des Déportés Juifs de France

Mr Chris Moon, United Kingdom, former miner, supporter of organizations for the disabled

Mr Jean Pictet, Honorary Vice-President of the International Committee of the Red Cross

Mr Vladimir Pozner, Russian Federation, journalist

H.E. Mr Mario Soares, former President of Portugal

H.E. General Amadou Toumani Touré, former President of Mali

Ms Marian Wright Edelman, United States, President of the Children's Defense Fund

Mr Zhang Yuan, China, film director

dedicated Website

aid specialists.

To support these public efforts, a Website dedicated to the project (<http://www.onwar.org>) was launched in May 1999. It featured background information on the consultation, stories and testimony gleaned in the field, photographic portfolios, an on-line questionnaire based on the actual questionnaire used by the consulting staff, as well as the final and country reports. A key part of the site was an interactive multimedia piece, called "Cross Fire", that used video material shot during the campaign. The piece addressed issues concerning the application of humanitarian law by taking the user through some of the dilemmas faced by both victims and combatants on the battlefield.

The data gathered in this first stage of the project will be analysed and put to tangible use by the ICRC and external specialists in the months and years to come.

12 August 1999

The 50th anniversary of the Geneva Conventions was marked by a special event held on 12 August 1999 in Geneva and attended by a group of people of international repute. The event included the inauguration of an exhibition of 50 giant banners on humanitarian law in the streets of the city, and the adoption of a solemn appeal calling on the international community to respect the rules of and limits to warfare and reflecting the concerns of those affected by war. The appeal was read by the ICRC President before being signed and adopted by the group of prominent world figures, led by the UN Secretary-General, in the Alabama Room of the Geneva Town Hall, where the Conventions had been signed 50 years earlier. A charity concert by world famous violinist Vanessa-Mae followed.

IMPLEMENTATION OF AND RESPECT FOR THE LAW

Through its humanitarian work, the ICRC endeavours to provide protection and assistance to victims of armed conflict. Its role is also "to work for the faithful application of international humanitarian law" and "to prepare any development thereof".¹

The ICRC constantly strives to ensure that belligerents respect their humanitarian commitments. Whenever the situation warrants, the institution may also appeal to all the members of the international community to urge the warring parties to meet their obligations.

By the same token, the ICRC keeps a close watch not only on methods and means of combat in order to assess their consequences in humanitarian terms, but also on any other developments that have a bearing on international humanitarian law, so as to prepare for the adoption, whenever necessary, of new rules of that law. Its role consists, especially on the basis of its observations in the field, in gathering relevant information, organizing consultations with experts, and monitoring and fostering debate on the evolution of humanitarian issues.

Advisory Service on International Humanitarian Law

In order to strengthen respect for the law, the ICRC set up a unit in charge of providing national authorities with assistance in acceding to humanitarian law treaties and implementing that branch of law within the State's domestic legal system. Called the Advisory Service on International Humanitarian Law, the unit helps carry out the major and urgent task which consists in promoting respect for humanitarian law and its implementation at national level. To that end, it works in close cooperation with governments, the National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, international organizations and specialized institutions.

The Advisory Service organized a series of national and regional seminars throughout the year in order to promote the broadest possible discussion of topics relating to the national implementation of humanitarian law. The seminars were attended by representatives of Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Justice, Defence, Health and the Interior, by parliamentarians and members of the armed forces and civil defence bodies, and by representatives of academic circles and other interested spheres. They were often held under the auspices of the government of the country in which they took place and were generally organized in close cooperation with the National Red Cross or Red Crescent Society of the host country. They provided an opportunity to present the work carried out in the field of implementation in other regions. In 1999, national seminars were held in the following countries: Benin (August), Burkina Faso (May, July and November), the Dominican Republic (August), Gambia (November and December), Georgia (March), Guatemala (March), Kenya (June), Kyrgyzstan (March and June), Lithuania (June), Malawi (February), Mali (February), Nicaragua (May and November), Niger (July), Panama (May and July), the Russian Federation (February), Sri Lanka (July), Tajikistan (February), Togo (August), Turkmenistan (May) and Uzbekistan (September).

*ensuring greater respect
for humanitarian law*

seminars on humanitarian law

¹ Article 5.2 (c) and (g) of the Statutes of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.

*cooperation
with other organizations*

advice on national legislation

*analysis of legislation
and case-law*

*repression of war crimes
at national level*

Regional seminars were held in El Salvador (June) and Lithuania (November). International humanitarian law and its national implementation were also the subject of several courses and conferences in CIS* countries, and two regional courses were organized for officials from those countries in Moscow in May and October.

In order to achieve its objectives more effectively, the Advisory Service cooperates with various organizations interested in the national implementation of international humanitarian law either in general or in respect of specific aspects thereof. Representatives of the Advisory Service were involved in particular in the proceedings of the special meeting of the OAS* Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs on the implementation of humanitarian law (16 March) and in the growing cooperation with the OAS Technical Cooperation Department. They continued to exchange views with the Inter-Parliamentary Union, with which a handbook for parliamentarians was published jointly.¹ Contacts were established with UNESCO representatives in Paris with a view to developing the work of the Advisory Service concerning the national implementation of treaty-based norms relating to the protection of cultural property. The Advisory Service also attended the meeting of Commonwealth Justice Ministers (Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, 5-7 May), and exchanged views with the CIS and its Inter-Parliamentary Assembly on model laws and recommendations for the implementation of humanitarian law.

The enactment of national legislation to punish war crimes and to prevent misuse of the red cross, red crescent and other emblems (civil defence and cultural property, for example) is central to ensuring full respect for humanitarian law. In 1999, the Advisory Service provided technical assistance and advice on the drafting, adoption and amendment of such legislation in the following countries: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bolivia, Burkina Faso, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, El Salvador, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lithuania, the Republic of Moldova, Mozambique, Nauru, Nicaragua, Niger, Panama, the Russian Federation, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan.

The Advisory Service gathers and analyses all information relating to new national legislation and case-law. In 1999, for example, a law on the protection of the red cross and red crescent emblems was adopted in Ukraine (August), and Belgium amended its legislation on the repression of serious violations of international humanitarian law (February). The penal codes of Belarus and Georgia were brought in line with humanitarian law, and legislation relating to anti-personnel mines was enacted in Germany (July) and Cambodia (April).

A meeting on the incorporation of the repression of war crimes into national legislation was organized in Madrid from 10 to 12 March in cooperation with the Madrid Bar Association and the Spanish Red Cross Centre for the Study of International Humanitarian Law. It followed on from meetings of experts organized in 1997 (civil law States) and 1998 (common law countries).² A dozen or so Spanish-speaking countries were represented by senior government officials (civilian and military), members of national committees, university lecturers, lawyers and

* CIS: Commonwealth of Independent States

* OAS: Organization of American States

¹ "Respect for International Humanitarian Law - A Handbook for Parliamentarians", ICRC and Inter-Parliamentary Union (eds.), Geneva, 1999, 104 pages.

² See the ICRC's 1998 Annual Report, pp. 311-312.

national committees

diplomats. The aim was to set out the penal-law obligations binding on States party to humanitarian law treaties and to discuss fundamental matters of law and questions of procedure and legislative technique relating to the incorporation into national legislation of punishment for violations of humanitarian law. The meeting also examined the international mechanisms for repressing crimes under international law. The meeting's conclusions will be published, as were those of the two earlier meetings.

The establishment of national committees for the implementation of humanitarian law, comprising representatives of ministries and national bodies responsible for implementation, constitutes an effective means of promoting compliance with the law at the national level. In 1999 such committees were set up in the Dominican Republic, Gambia, Iran, Japan, Kyrgyzstan, Mali,³ Nicaragua, Slovenia, Tajikistan and the United Kingdom, bringing the number of operational national committees to over 50. Other countries considering setting up their own committees included Armenia, Burkina Faso, Croatia, Egypt, Guatemala, Jordan, Luxembourg, Mozambique, Niger, Poland, the Russian Federation, Uganda, Ukraine and Uzbekistan. Together with the Belgian Interdepartmental Commission for Humanitarian Law, the Belgian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Belgian Red Cross, the ICRC organized a European meeting of committees and other national humanitarian law bodies that was held in Brussels on 19 and 20 April. The aim of the meeting was to exchange experience and information relating to the implementation of humanitarian law and to bring to light any areas of common thought. Bilateral contacts between national committees were also encouraged. A second meeting between the Chilean and Argentine committees was held in October. In addition, numerous contacts were forged between Advisory Service staff and representatives of existing bodies with a view to supporting the activities of the latter.

publications

In 1999 the Advisory Service published its third annual report,⁴ which outlined recent developments regarding national implementation of humanitarian law. It added to the corpus of information on the topic by creating fact sheets on questions of implementation. The report on the 1997 meeting of experts on the national repression of violations of humanitarian law in civil law States was published early in the year.⁵ The Advisory Service also went on-line, making its database containing examples of national legislation and case-law relating to the implementation of humanitarian law available on the ICRC Website.

International Criminal Court

working to promote ratification

The Statute for an International Criminal Court (ICC), adopted on 17 July 1998 in Rome, will enter into force once it has been ratified by 60 States. Given that many States will have to enact national legislation or even amend their constitutions before ratification to meet the terms of the Statute, it is unlikely that there will be 60 ratifications in the short term. The ICRC has decided to promote ratification actively, and in particular to secure the Statute's entry into force as rapidly as possible. By

³ The Mali National Committee was in fact set up in December 1998.

⁴ International Committee of the Red Cross, "National implementation of international humanitarian law, Annual Report 1998 of the Advisory Service on International Humanitarian Law", Geneva, 1999.

⁵ "Repression nationale des violations du droit international humanitaire (systèmes romano-germaniques) : rapport de la réunion d'experts, Genève, 23-25 septembre 1997", Advisory Service on International Humanitarian Law, ICRC, Geneva, 310 pages.

*important tasks incumbent
on the Preparatory Commission*

*right to non-disclosure
in judicial proceedings*

need for national implementation

31 December 1999, six States (Fiji, Ghana, Italy, San Marino, Senegal and Trinidad and Tobago) had ratified and 91 had signed the Rome Statute.

Much remains to be done before the Court becomes fully operational. A Preparatory Commission has been mandated to draft the Rules of Procedure and Evidence and the Elements of Crimes by 30 June 2000. It is understood that existing international humanitarian law must be properly reflected in these instruments. With a view to furthering this aim, the ICRC prepared an extensive study on relevant international and national case-law on the elements of war crimes. The study was submitted to the Preparatory Commission by a group of seven States as background information to facilitate the negotiations, during which it was extensively used.

In a recent decision of the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (27 July), the Trial Chamber held that under customary international law the ICRC enjoys a right to non-disclosure in judicial proceedings of information relating to its work. The Trial Chamber stressed that preserving confidentiality is absolutely essential to the performance of the ICRC's mandate. On the basis of these legal arguments, the ICRC worked to have this rule of customary international law reflected in the ICC's Rules of Procedure and Evidence.

Despite the establishment of the ICC, States will continue to have a duty to exercise their domestic criminal jurisdiction over persons alleged to have committed international crimes, as the Court has jurisdiction only when a suspected criminal has not been tried in a national court. This is likely to encourage States to put in place national implementation measures or to improve upon existing legislation. In this context, the ICRC Advisory Service will continue to assist States in the adoption and implementation of national legislation for the prosecution of war criminals, taking into account the Rome Statute.

Observance by United Nations forces of international humanitarian law

In order to define the principles and rules applicable to peace-keeping forces more clearly, the ICRC convened a symposium in 1994 and two meetings of experts in 1995 attended by UN representatives. The meetings resulted in the drafting of guidelines which were communicated to the United Nations Secretary-General, who on 12 August 1999 promulgated the text entitled "Observance by United Nations forces of international humanitarian law" in the Secretary-General's Bulletin.⁶ The guidelines entered into force on 12 August, on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the Geneva Conventions. The ICRC is pleased that the legal situation concerning the law applicable to peace-keeping forces is thus clarified, a step that will allow for more effective teaching of the law to those forces.

The guidelines deal with the fundamental principles and rules of humanitarian law applicable to United Nations forces conducting military operations under UN command and control in situations of armed conflict.

⁶ Bulletin ST/SGB/1999/13 of 6 August 1999.

Centenary of the First International Peace Conference in 1899

The ICRC took an active part in the various events to mark the centenary of the First International Peace Conference in 1899, during which humanitarian law underwent significant development. During governmental meetings in The Hague (18 and 19 May) and St Petersburg (22 to 25 June), the provisions and implementation of humanitarian law, disarmament and the peaceful settlement of disputes were the subject of in-depth consideration and fruitful debate. The ICRC was represented at the meetings by its President and Vice-President respectively. As a member of the "Friends of 1999",⁷ the ICRC helped prepare the commemoration of this important event. It also participated in the Hague Appeal for Peace conference for members of civil society (The Hague, 11-15 May), holding several workshops on humanitarian law.

27th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent

Humanitarian law was the subject of in-depth debate during the 27th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent,⁸ held in Geneva from 31 October to 6 November 1999.

That debate took several forms. On the one hand, the Plenary Commission devoted considerable time to the topics of protection of victims of armed conflict through respect for international humanitarian law and humanitarian action in the event of armed conflict or other disasters. On the other, the Conference adopted a Plan of Action for the years 2000 to 2003 which reiterates the principal obligations stemming from humanitarian law (in particular, respect for that law by States and armed groups, the responsibility of States in the event of grave breaches of humanitarian law, the ICRC's role to protect and assist, the recruitment and participation of children in hostilities, the repression of war crimes, the ratification of instruments of humanitarian law, national implementing measures, the teaching of humanitarian law, the consistency of arms with humanitarian law, the prohibition of anti-personnel mines, the problem of arms transfers, activities for certain categories of victims such as refugees and people displaced within their own countries, and the protection of humanitarian personnel).

The participants undertook to implement the Plan of Action and to honour the many individual pledges they made during the Conference. The Plan of Action was accompanied by a solemn declaration recalling in particular the collective commitment to humanitarian law.

⁷ A group of about twenty States and international organizations invited by the Conference organizers (the Netherlands and the Russian Federation) to participate in the preparations for the events to commemorate the centenary of the First International Peace Conference.

⁸ See also pp. 376-377.

STRENGTHENING AND DEVELOPING THE LAW

Study on customary rules of international humanitarian law

In December 1995, the 26th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent formally invited "the ICRC to prepare, with the assistance of experts on IHL representing various geographical regions and different legal systems, and in consultation with experts from governments and international organizations, a report on customary rules of IHL, applicable in international and non-international armed conflicts, and to circulate the report to States and competent international bodies". A Plan of Action was drawn up in 1996 by the study's Steering Committee, which is composed of eminent academic experts in humanitarian law, and research started in late 1996. The study covers six areas of humanitarian law: the principle of distinction, methods of warfare, use of weapons, specific protection regimes, treatment of persons and human rights law applicable in armed conflict, and accountability and implementation.⁹

In 1999, the Steering Committee submitted its first assessment of the customary nature of the rules covered by the study to a group of governmental experts for review. More than thirty experts analysed the assessment during two week-long meetings in January and May 1999. In general, the study was well received and the method largely approved. In the second half of 1999, the ICRC started drafting the final report, taking into account the opinions of the experts consulted. In addition, the consolidated practice reports were being edited and updated so as to reflect State practice up until December 1999.

final report in preparation

Protection of cultural property in the event of armed conflict

The Second Protocol to the 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict was adopted on 26 March 1999 after two weeks of negotiations at a diplomatic conference in The Hague. The ICRC played an active role in the drafting of this new treaty, both before and during the diplomatic conference. Its aim was to ensure that the new treaty reflected modern humanitarian law and, if possible, developed it further. The ICRC contributed during the actual conference in three ways: its legal expertise was sought by many delegations, it was an active participant in the various working groups, and it submitted a number of proposals in close cooperation and consultation with government delegations. The Second Protocol has four main features.

The 1954 Convention was adopted well before the 1977 Additional Protocols. It was drafted against the background of the Second World War at a time when it was still considered inevitable that entire cities would be attacked. The 1954 Convention sought to protect valuable cultural property in the event of such a war. It provides that cultural property can be attacked only in case of "imperative military necessity", without defining this exception. In 1977, Additional Protocol I did away with this approach. Henceforth, only military objectives – more clearly defined and more carefully selected – could be made the object of attack. It appeared self-evident that any improvement of the 1954 Convention should reflect this modern approach: cultural

basic protection

⁹ See the ICRC's 1998 Annual Report, p. 315, for a discussion of the study method.

enhanced protection

property is civilian property and it should not be attacked unless it becomes a military objective. In addition, cultural property can only be attacked when there is no other feasible alternative. The updating of the 1954 Convention in the light of Additional Protocol I also led to the inclusion of rules concerning precautions in attack that are to be found in the Protocol.

Given that the 1954 system of cultural property under special protection never functioned well, the Second Protocol establishes a new system. Cultural property of the greatest importance for humanity can be placed under enhanced protection provided it is adequately protected by domestic law and not used for military purposes or to shield military sites. Enhanced protection is granted from the moment the property is entered on the List of Cultural Property Under Enhanced Protection. The decision to list a cultural property is taken by the Committee for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict, an intergovernmental committee established under the new Protocol.

enforcement

Another development reflected in the new Protocol is the increased effort to fight impunity through effective criminal prosecution of war criminals. The Protocol specifically defines five serious violations for which it establishes individual criminal responsibility. States undertake to adopt appropriate legislation to make these violations criminal offences under domestic law, to provide appropriate penalties and to establish jurisdiction over these offences, including universal jurisdiction for three of the five serious violations. The list of serious violations goes well beyond existing law.

scope of application

The Second Protocol applies equally to international and non-international armed conflicts. The extension of application to non-international armed conflicts is essential.

Protection of displaced persons

International humanitarian law provides extensive protection against arbitrary displacement. By working for the faithful implementation of the law, notably by reminding parties of their obligations towards civilians and by providing relief assistance, the ICRC helps to maintain a basis for subsistence and a minimum of safety, both of which are essential if people are to remain in their homes.

While in the majority of cases the ICRC acts in the light of humanitarian law alone, its delegates have also referred to the "Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement", for instance when humanitarian law is implicit only or no longer applicable. The ICRC also continued to participate in inter-agency discussions on how the protection and assistance needs of uprooted populations could best be met, both at the policy level and in the context of specific conflict situations.

Protection of children in armed conflicts

In recognition of the extremely difficult situation faced by millions of war-affected children, the ICRC pursued its dual strategy of combining protection and assistance activities in countries affected by armed conflicts or other forms of violence with efforts to enhance the legal protection of children. At the operational level, ICRC delegates spread knowledge of humanitarian law and interceded with the parties to armed conflicts to encourage respect for its provisions.

Further to the Plan of Action adopted by the 1995 Council of Delegates, the ICRC also promoted the principle of non-recruitment and non-participation in armed conflict of children under the age of 18. It did so notably by participating in the UN Working Group established to draft an optional protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child and by maintaining regular contact with those associated with its work. It also made its views known in various international fora, including regional meetings organized by States and NGOs.

Fundamental standards of humanity

The ICRC continued to participate actively in the debate on fundamental standards of humanity taking place within the UN Commission on Human Rights. Pursuant to the relevant Commission resolution, the ICRC provided comments on two reports by the UN Secretary-General examining the need to draft fundamental standards of humanity and the potential legal and practical implications thereof. The ICRC also contributed to informal discussions of fundamental standards of humanity organized between governments and NGOs. The ICRC's forthcoming study on customary rules of international humanitarian law will be particularly relevant to further discussions of the standards.

Repression of international terrorism

In recent years, the ICRC has been closely following efforts by the international community to draft international legal instruments for the repression of terrorism. In the framework of the United Nations, the ICRC has participated as an observer in the negotiations on the International Convention for the Suppression of Terrorist Bombings (adopted by the UN General Assembly in December 1997), in the drafting of an international convention for the suppression of acts of nuclear terrorism (not yet finalized) and in the discussions on the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism (adopted in 1999). The ICRC also followed similar developments in the context of regional organizations.

The role of the ICRC in these fora has been one of expert, in line with its internationally recognized mandate as promoter and guardian of humanitarian law. Its advice has been sought by a growing number of State representatives with a view to ensuring that new instruments do not undermine existing norms of the law. Indeed, some aspects of the repression of terrorism touch upon humanitarian law, and in the case of the Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism, upon humanitarian action.

Reparation for victims of violations of humanitarian law

The ICRC is actively involved in the establishment of basic principles and guidelines on the right to a remedy and reparation for victims of violations of international human rights and humanitarian law. The principles and guidelines are currently being developed by an independent expert, Professor Cherif Bassiouni, who was appointed for this purpose by the Commission on Human Rights in 1998. The ICRC has kept abreast of the project since its inception and since the first drafts produced by the initial Independent expert, Professor Theo Van Boven. In 1999 it twice sub-

mitted its comments on the draft basic principles and guidelines, at the invitation of the independent expert. The draft basic principles and guidelines will be submitted to the Commission on Human Rights in 2000.

REGULATIONS ON WEAPONS

The Convention on the Prohibition of Anti-personnel Mines

In 1999, a number of major developments brought the world closer to ending the scourge of anti-personnel landmines. In March the Convention on the Prohibition of Anti-personnel Mines (the Ottawa treaty) entered into force. By obtaining the requisite 40 ratifications only 16 months after its signature, the Ottawa treaty marked the fastest entry into force ever for a multilateral arms-related agreement. The first meeting of States Parties was held soon after entry into force, from 3 to 7 May. The meeting resulted in the creation of an ongoing process to promote implementation between annual meetings of States Parties, and in the establishment of Standing Committees of Experts to address issues related to mine clearance, stockpile destruction, mine-victim assistance, mine awareness, the development of technologies in mine action and the general status and implementation of the treaty. Work in these groups began in the second half of 1999 and involved governments, United Nations agencies, the ICRC, NGOs and others interested in mine-related action.

The prohibition of anti-personnel landmines continued to gain acceptance as the new norm of humanitarian law governing these weapons. With the entry into force of the Ottawa treaty, the number of signatories was closed at 133. By the end of 1999, a total of 90 countries had formally ratified the treaty's provisions and 13 States Parties had announced the total destruction of their stockpiles of anti-personnel mines. In another significant development, 15 States had also passed national laws prohibiting the weapons and criminalizing violations.

In addition to participating in the first meeting of States Parties and the Standing Committees of Experts, the ICRC continued to promote ratification, membership in and implementation of the Ottawa treaty. Most of its efforts were directed at regions of the world where ratifications have thus far been few. In addition to regular representations by its delegations around the world, in 1999 the ICRC organized meetings on anti-personnel landmines in Colombo, Sri Lanka (for military and foreign affairs representatives of South Asia) and Nairobi, Kenya (for Kenyan government officials). The Colombo meeting was the first time that officials from Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka had gathered to discuss the landmines issue on a regional basis.

ICRC representatives also participated in major regional meetings on the landmines issue organized by governments and NGOs in Mexico City (Mexico), Tunis (Tunisia), Beirut (Lebanon), Zagreb (Croatia), Abuja (Nigeria) and Tbilissi (Georgia). In addition to providing expertise, the ICRC made available documentation, videos and in several cases its traveling exhibitions on the Ottawa treaty.

The ICRC also produced a 14-minute teaching video in 1999 on the Ottawa treaty. Available in seven languages, the video is to be used with parliamentarians, mine-clearance staff, armed forces members, health workers and other groups who will be involved in implementing the treaty. The ICRC also produced three travelling

fastest entry into force ever

working for universal ratification

exhibitions on the Ottawa treaty, in English, Spanish and Arabic; they are available for national and international events.

1980 Conventional Weapons Convention

By the end of 1999, 75 States were party to the 1980 Convention on Conventional Weapons (CCW), which regulates the use of certain weapons which may be deemed to cause unnecessary suffering or to have indiscriminate effects. Tajikistan was the only State to ratify in 1999. With regard to the three original protocols, 73 States Parties have now ratified Protocol I (on undetectable fragments), 68 Protocol II (mines, booby-traps and other devices) and 70 Protocol III (incendiary weapons). The two protocols adopted at the 1996 Review Conference, Protocol IV (blinding laser weapons) and amended Protocol II (mines, booby-traps and other devices), continued to garner ratifications. An additional 16 States ratified Protocol IV in 1999, bringing the total number of ratifications to 45, and 11 States ratified amended Protocol II, increasing the overall number to 44.

Amended Protocol II and Protocol IV address two issues with which the international community has been concerned in recent years, namely the problem of landmines and the development of new weapons. Despite the entry into force of the Ottawa treaty banning anti-personnel mines, amended Protocol II remains an important instrument as it regulates anti-vehicle mines, booby-traps and other devices not covered by the Ottawa treaty and which often threaten civilian populations in today's conflicts. Protocol IV bans the use of laser weapons causing permanent blindness, devices which have not yet been widely produced or deployed. It marks the first time that a weapon has been outlawed before its use on the battlefield. Throughout the year, ICRC delegations and National Societies encouraged States to ratify and implement both Protocols.

Arms availability

In June 1999 the ICRC published a major study, commissioned by the 26th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent (1995), on "Arms availability and the situation of civilians in armed conflict". The study describes the institution's field experience concerning the effects of arms availability on civilian populations in two case studies analysing information drawn from the ICRC's extensive medical database on patients treated in ICRC hospitals and by its medical teams. These provide unique insights into the nature of arms-related casualties in two contexts in which the ICRC has worked. To the ICRC's knowledge, these are among the few systematic studies which have been published on the nature of arms-related casualties among the local population in war-torn societies and mark the first time a major humanitarian agency has produced a report of this type based on its field experience.

In addition, the ICRC carried out a survey of its delegates with experience of conflict and post-conflict settings. The objective was to gather the perceptions of ICRC staff on the availability of arms within various segments of given populations, the nature of arms-related incidents involving civilians and the direct impact of arms availability on ICRC field operations.

ICRC study

*a matter of urgent
humanitarian concern*

humanitarian law considerations

The ICRC study highlights the high price civilian populations have paid in recent conflicts. Civilian casualties outnumber those of combatants in many internal and ethnic conflicts and have increased throughout the century, in parallel with the development of new military technologies.

Although the ICRC study does not suggest that arms availability is the sole cause of violations of international humanitarian law or a deterioration in the situation of civilians, it indicates that the unregulated transfer of weapons and ammunition can increase tension and the number of civilian casualties and prolong the duration of conflicts. One of the central conclusions is that the current pattern of transfers of small arms, light weapons and related ammunition, because it falls largely outside international control, should be a matter of urgent humanitarian concern. While the primary responsibility for compliance with international humanitarian law falls upon users of weapons, States and enterprises engaged in production and export bear a degree of political, moral and, in some cases, legal responsibility to the international community for the use made of their weapons and ammunition. At the same time, efforts to teach and promote humanitarian law must be redoubled so that arms bearers understand its basic norms and are expected by their own communities to respect it.

The ICRC study encourages governments, regional organizations and NGOs involved in the development of arms transfer limitations to recognize that international humanitarian law is often the body of law most relevant to the stated purpose for which military-style arms and ammunition are transferred. It proposes that criteria based on humanitarian law considerations should become an important component of any new limitations on arms availability developed in the coming years.

In October 1999, the Council of Delegates¹⁰ adopted the overall analysis and conclusions of the ICRC study as the Movement's position on this issue. It encouraged National Societies to work to raise public awareness of the human costs of widespread arms availability and to promote the inclusion of humanitarian law considerations in national policies on arms availability. In November 1999, the 27th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent¹¹ also addressed this priority issue. The Conference called for strengthened controls on arms availability and transfers and asked States to look for ways to integrate respect for humanitarian law into national decision-making processes governing arms transfers.

The SirUS Project and reviewing the legality of new weapons

In addition to the development of new norms, the ICRC is equally concerned with the faithful application of existing international humanitarian law governing the use of weapons. In recent years the ICRC's medical personnel, together with a wide range of military and civilian medical professionals, have developed a tool to assist States in fulfilling their obligation to assess the legality of weapons before their deployment (Article 36 of Protocol I additional to the Geneva Conventions). The SirUS Project, now endorsed by 15 national medical associations, collects hospital and casualty data on injuries sustained in conflicts over the past 50 years in order to identify and quantify the types of injuries and suffering resulting from the use of weapons in these situations.

¹⁰ See pp. 375-376.

¹¹ See pp. 376-377.

The ICRC has proposed that the data on arms injuries gathered by the project be taken into account in determining which weapons may cause **superfluous injury or unnecessary suffering** (SIrUS). Under existing law, all new weapons must be reviewed to establish whether by their nature or design they inflict such injury. The ICRC considers that the information provided by the SIrUS Project provides a tool for more objective discussion and decision-making regarding new weapons. It does so by pinpointing the injuries which have most often been sustained in conflicts over the past few decades and those which have been relatively rare. It does not define superfluous injury or unnecessary suffering.

In May 1999, the ICRC hosted a meeting of government medical and legal experts to consider and help refine its proposals to the 27th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent on the basis of the SIrUS Project. The Conference itself encouraged the many States which have not yet done so to establish mechanisms, in accordance with Article 36 of 1977 Protocol I, to determine if the use of a proposed new weapon is consistent with the requirements of international humanitarian law. It also supported consultations between the ICRC and States on how the approach outlined by the SIrUS Project may be used in such weapon reviews.

Other weapons

The ICRC continues to be active in monitoring developments regarding new weapons and problems posed by existing weapons in the light of humanitarian law. In 1999 efforts focused in particular on the 1868 St Petersburg Declaration, which established the principle that weapons which inflict more suffering than is required to take a soldier out of action are contrary to the laws of humanity and on this basis specifically prohibited exploding bullets. The ICRC had learned that in recent years bullets capable of exploding on impact with a human body have been produced, sold and used. In early 1999, it hosted a meeting of technical and legal government experts which reaffirmed that the proliferation of such bullets was a serious problem and undermined the very purpose of the St Petersburg Declaration. The meeting urged all States to refrain from the production and export of such bullets and those that possess them strictly to prohibit their use against persons, a practice which violates existing law. The ICRC expects to report on this problem and seek appropriate action during the 2001 Review Conference of the Conventional Weapons Convention.

The institution also continued to follow with concern the possible health effects of so-called "non-lethal" weapons, specifically those related to certain directed energy weapons. It stressed the need for careful review of all new weapons on the basis of the requirements of humanitarian law, regardless of whether they are described as "lethal" or "non-lethal".

Chemical and biological weapons

Recent reports, including those published by the British Medical Association in early 1999, have highlighted the potential for misuse of the remarkable and rapid advances in the fields of microbiology, genetic engineering and biotechnology. The ICRC, in its statement to the UN General Assembly in October 1999, expressed concern that exploiting such advances for hostile purposes would clearly violate both ancient taboos and twentieth century legal prohibitions on the use of biological weapons. Yet if existing norms are to be maintained, an effective monitoring system is urgently needed to help ensure that knowledge in these fields, which should benefit humanity, is not turned against it. The ICRC has therefore called on States to spare no effort in concluding negotiations on an effective monitoring regime for the 1972 Biological Weapons Convention.

LEGAL STATUS AND HEADQUARTERS AGREEMENTS

The ICRC is traditionally described as the guardian of international humanitarian law. It enjoys unique status under international law. Its mandate and recognized role as a neutral, impartial and independent humanitarian organization can be inferred from the numerous tasks it has been given by States under various humanitarian law instruments and in the Statutes of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. To some extent, the status enjoyed by the institution and its staff under international law is also derived from the practice the ICRC has developed with States in the course of its activities.

The ICRC is recognized as possessing international legal personality, and in order to facilitate its efforts to bring protection and assistance to victims of armed conflict and other situations of violence, more than sixty States have concluded explicit agreements with it. The purpose of these agreements, in which immunities and privileges are granted to the organization and its staff, is to facilitate the independent action of ICRC delegates, and consequently that of the ICRC itself. In 1999, the ICRC concluded headquarters agreements with Belgium, Cameroon (replacing a previous agreement concluded in 1972), the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Guinea.

UNIVERSAL ACCEPTANCE OF THE GENEVA CONVENTIONS AND THEIR ADDITIONAL PROTOCOLS

In 1999 a total of 188 States were party to the 1949 Geneva Conventions. During the year three States acceded to the two 1977 Protocols additional to the Conventions: Kenya (23 February), Ireland (19 May) and Nicaragua (19 July); one acceded to Protocol II: Cuba (23 June) This brought the number of States party to Additional Protocol I and Additional Protocol II to 155 and 148 respectively.


Article 90 of Additional Protocol I provides for the establishment of an International Fact-Finding Commission to enquire into allegations of serious violations of humanitarian law. In 1999 the United Kingdom (17 May), Ireland (19 May), Panama (16 October) and Costa Rica (2 December) filed declarations recognizing the competence of the Commission, bringing the number of States which had done so to 57.

STATES PARTY TO THE GENEVA CONVENTIONS AND THEIR ADDITIONAL PROTOCOLS

This map shows which States were party to the 1949 Geneva Conventions and to their 1977 Additional Protocols, as at 31 December 1999. It also indicates which States had made the optional declaration under Article 90 of 1977 Additional Protocol I, recognizing the competence of the International Fact-Finding Commission.

N.B.: The names of the countries given on this map may differ from their official names.



	States party to the 1949 Geneva Conventions:	188
	States party to the 1949 Geneva Conventions and to 1977 Additional Protocol I:	155
	States party to the 1949 Geneva Conventions and to 1977 Additional Protocol II:	148
	States party to the 1949 Geneva Conventions and to both Additional Protocols:	146
	States having made the declaration under Article 90 of 1997 Additional Protocol I:	56
	States not party to the Geneva Conventions and Protocols	



Tables

The following tables show which States were party to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and to the two Additional Protocols of 1977, as at 31 December 1999. They also indicate which States had made the optional declaration under Article 90 of 1977 Protocol I, recognizing the competence of the International Fact-Finding Commission. The names of the countries given in the tables may differ from their official names.

The dates indicated are those on which the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs received the official instrument from the State that was ratifying, acceding to or succeeding to the Conventions and Protocols or accepting the competence of the International Fact-Finding Commission. Apart from the exceptions mentioned in the footnotes at the end of the tables, for all States the entry into force of the Conventions and of the Protocols enter into force six months after the date given in the present document; for States making a declaration of succession, entry into force takes place retroactively, on the day of their accession to independence.

Abbreviations

Ratification (R): a treaty is generally open for signature for a certain time following the conference which has adopted it. However, a signature is not binding on a State unless it has been endorsed by ratification. The time limits having elapsed, the Conventions and the Protocols are no longer open for signature. The States which have not signed them may at any time accede or, in the appropriate circumstances, succeed to them.

Accession (A): instead of signing and then ratifying a treaty, a State may become party to it by the single act called accession.

Declaration of Succession (S): a newly independent State may declare that it will abide by a treaty which was applicable to it prior to its independence. A State may also declare that it will provisionally abide by such treaties during the time it deems necessary to examine their texts carefully and to decide on accession or succession to some or all of the said treaties (declaration of provisional application of the treaties). At present no State is bound by such a declaration.

Reservation/Declaration (R/D): unilateral statement, however phrased or named, made by a State when ratifying, acceding or succeeding to a treaty, whereby it purports to exclude or to modify the legal effect of certain provisions of the treaty in their application to that State (provided that such reservations are not incompatible with the object and purpose of the treaty).

Declaration provided for under Article 90 of Protocol I (D90): prior acceptance of the competence of the International Fact-Finding Commission.

INTERNATIONAL LAW, COMMUNICATION AND THE MOVEMENT

COUNTRY	GENEVA CONVENTIONS			PROTOCOL I			PROTOCOL II		
	R/A/S	R/D		R/A/S	R/D	D90	R/A/S	R/D	
Afghanistan	26.09.1956	R							
Albania	27.05.1957	R	X	16.07.1993	A		16.07.1993	A	
Algeria	20.06.1960; 03.07.1962	A		16.08.1989	A	X	16.08.1989	16.08.1989	A
Andorra	17.09.1993	A							
Angola	20.09.1984	A	X	20.09.1984	A	X			
Antigua and Barbuda	06.10.1986	S		06.10.1986	A		06.10.1986	A	
Argentina	18.09.1956	R		26.11.1986	A	X	11.10.1996	26.11.1986	A
Armenia	07.06.1993	A		07.06.1993	A			07.06.1993	A
Australia	14.10.1958	R	X	21.06.1991	R	X	23.09.1992	21.06.1991	R
Austria	27.08.1953	R		13.08.1982	R	X	13.08.1982	13.08.1982	R
Azerbaijan	01.06.1993	A							
Bahamas	11.07.1975	S		10.04.1980	A		10.04.1980	A	
Bahrain	30.11.1971	A		30.10.1986	A		30.10.1986	A	
Bangladesh	04.04.1972	S		08.09.1980	A		08.09.1980	A	
Barbados	10.09.1968	S	X	19.02.1990	A		19.02.1990	A	
Belarus	03.08.1954	R	X	23.10.1989	R		23.10.1989	23.10.1989	R
Belgium	03.09.1952	R		20.05.1986	R	X	27.03.1987	20.05.1986	R
Belize	29.06.1984	A		29.06.1984	A		29.06.1984	A	
Benin	14.12.1961	S		28.05.1986	A		28.05.1986	A	
Bhutan	10.01.1991	A							
Bolivia	10.12.1976	R		08.12.1983	A		10.08.1992	08.12.1983	A
Bosnia-Herzegovina	31.12.1992	S		31.12.1992	S		31.12.1992	31.12.1992	S
Botswana	29.03.1968	A		23.05.1979	A		23.05.1979	A	
Brazil	29.06.1957	R		05.05.1992	A		23.11.1993	05.05.1992	A
Brunei Darussalam	14.10.1991	A		14.10.1991	A		14.10.1991	A	
Bulgaria	22.07.1954	R		26.09.1989	R		09.05.1994	26.09.1989	R
Burkina Faso	07.11.1961	S		20.10.1987	R		20.10.1987	R	
Burundi	27.12.1971	S		10.06.1993	A		10.06.1993	A	
Cambodia	08.12.1958	A		14.01.1998	A		14.01.1998	A	
Cameroon	16.09.1963	S		16.03.1984	A		16.03.1984	A	
Canada	14.05.1965	R		20.11.1990	R	X	20.11.1990	20.11.1990	R
Cape Verde	11.05.1984	A		16.03.1995	A		16.03.1995	16.03.1995	A
Central African Republic	01.08.1966	S		17.07.1984	A		17.07.1984	A	
Chad	05.08.1970	A		17.01.1997	A		17.01.1997	A	
Chile	12.10.1950	R		24.04.1991	R		24.04.1991	24.04.1991	R
China	28.12.1956	R	X	14.09.1983	A	X	14.09.1983	A	
Colombia	08.11.1961	R		01.09.1993	A		17.04.1996	14.08.1995	A

INTERNATIONAL LAW, COMMUNICATION AND THE MOVEMENT

	GENEVA CONVENTIONS			PROTOCOL I			PROTOCOL II		
COUNTRY	R/A/S	R/D	R/A/S	R/D	D90	R/A/S	R/D		
Comoros	21.11.1985	A	21.11.1985	A		21.11.1985	A		
Congo	04.02.1967	S	10.11.1983	A		10.11.1983	A		
Congo (Dem. Rep.)	24.02.1961	S	03.06.1982	A					
Costa Rica	15.10.1969	A	15.12.1983	A	02.12.1999	15.12.1983	A		
Côte d'Ivoire	28.12.1961	S	20.09.1989	R		20.09.1989	R		
Croatia	11.05.1992	S	11.05.1992	S	11.05.1992	11.05.1992	S		
Cuba	15.04.1954	R	25.11.1982	A		23.12.1999	A		
Cyprus	23.05.1962	A	01.06.1979	R		18.03.1996	A		
Czech Republic	05.02.1993	S	X	05.02.1993	S	02.05.1995	05.02.1993	S	
Denmark	27.06.1951	R	17.06.1982	R	X	17.06.1982	17.06.1982	R	
Djibouti	06.03.1978	S	08.04.1991	A		08.04.1991	A		
Dominica	28.09.1981	S	25.04.1996	A		25.04.1996	A		
Dominican Republic	22.01.1958	A	26.05.1994	A		26.05.1994	A		
Ecuador	11.08.1954	R	10.04.1979	R		10.04.1979	R		
Egypt	10.11.1952	R	09.10.1992	R	X	09.10.1992	R	X	
El Salvador	17.06.1953	R	23.11.1978	R		23.11.1978	R		
Equatorial Guinea	24.07.1986	A	24.07.1986	A		24.07.1986	A		
Estonia	18.01.1993	A	18.01.1993	A		18.01.1993	A		
Ethiopia	02.10.1969	R	08.04.1994	A		08.04.1994	A		
Fiji	09.08.1971	S							
Finland	22.02.1955	R	07.08.1980	R	X	07.08.1980	07.08.1980	R	
France	28.06.1951	R				24.02.1984	A	X	
Gabon	26.02.1965	S	08.04.1980	A		08.04.1980	A		
Gambia	20.10.1966	S	12.01.1989	A		12.01.1989	A		
Georgia	14.09.1993	A	14.09.1993	A		14.09.1993	A		
Germany	03.09.1954	A	X	14.02.1991	R	X	14.02.1991	R	X
Ghana	02.08.1958	A	28.02.1978	R		28.02.1978	R		
Greece	05.06.1956	R	31.03.1989	R	04.02.1998	15.02.1993	A		
Grenada	13.04.1981	S	23.09.1998	A		23.09.1998	A		
Guatemala	14.05.1952	R	19.10.1987	R		19.10.1987	R		
Guinea	11.07.1984	A	11.07.1984	A	20.12.1993	11.07.1984	A		
Guinea-Bissau	21.02.1974	A	X	21.10.1986	A		21.10.1986	A	
Guyana	22.07.1968	S	18.01.1988	A		18.01.1988	A		
Haiti	11.04.1957	A							
Holy See	22.02.1951	R	21.11.1985	R	X		21.11.1985	R	X
Honduras	31.12.1965	A	16.02.1995	R		16.02.1995	R		
Hungary	03.08.1954	R	X	12.04.1989	R	23.09.1991	12.04.1989	R	
Iceland	10.08.1965	A	10.04.1987	R	X	10.04.1987	10.04.1987	R	

INTERNATIONAL LAW, COMMUNICATION AND THE MOVEMENT

	GENEVA CONVENTIONS			PROTOCOL I			PROTOCOL II			
COUNTRY	R/A/S	R/D		R/A/S	R/D	D90	R/A/S	R/D		
India	09.11.1950	R								
Indonesia	30.09.1958	A								
Iran (Islamic Rep.of)	20.02.1957	R	X							
Iraq	14.02.1956	A								
Ireland	27.09.1962	R		19.05.1999	R	X	19.05.1999	19.05.1999	R	X
Israel	06.07.1951	R	X							
Italy	17.12.1951	R		27.02.1986	R	X	27.02.1986	27.02.1986	R	
Jamaica	20.07.1964	S		29.07.1986	A			29.07.1986	A	
Japan	21.04.1953	A								
Jordan	29.05.1951	A		01.05.1979	R			01.05.1979	R	
Kazakhstan	05.05.1992	S		05.05.1992	S			05.05.1992	S	
Kenya	20.09.1966	A		23.02.1999	A			23.02.1999	A	
Kiribati	05.01.1989	S								
Korea (Dem.People's Rep.)	27.08.1957	A	X	09.03.1988	A					
Korea (Republic of)	16.08.1966	A	X	15.01.1982	R	X		15.01.1982	R	
Kuwait	02.09.1967	A	X	17.01.1985	A			17.01.1985	A	
Kyrgyzstan	18.09.1992	S		18.09.1992	S			18.09.1992	S	
Lao People's Dem.Rep.	29.10.1956	A		18.11.1980	R		30.01.1998	18.11.1980	R	
Latvia	24.12.1991	A		24.12.1991	A			24.12.1991	A	
Lebanon	10.04.1951	R		23.07.1997	A			23.07.1997	A	
Lesotho	20.05.1968	S		20.05.1994	A			20.05.1994	A	
Liberia	29.03.1954	A		30.06.1988	A			30.06.1988	A	
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	22.05.1956	A		07.06.1978	A			07.06.1978	A	
Liechtenstein	21.09.1950	R		10.08.1989	R	X	10.08.1989	10.08.1989	R	X
Lithuania	03.10.1996	A								
Luxembourg	01.07.1953	R		29.08.1989	R		12.05.1993	29.08.1989	R	
Macedonia	01.09.1993	S	X	01.09.1993	S	X	01.09.1993	01.09.1993	S	
Madagascar	18.07.1963	S		08.05.1992	R		27.07.1993	08.05.1992	R	
Malawi	05.01.1968	A		07.10.1991	A			07.10.1991	A	
Malaysia	24.08.1962	A								
Maldives	18.06.1991	A		03.09.1991	A			03.09.1991	A	
Mali	24.05.1965	A		08.02.1989	A			08.02.1989	A	
Malta	22.08.1968	S		17.04.1989	A	X	17.04.1989	17.04.1989	A	X
Mauritania	30.10.1962	S		14.03.1980	A			14.03.1980	A	
Mauritius	18.08.1970	S		22.03.1982	A			22.03.1982	A	
Mexico	29.10.1952	R		10.03.1983	A					
Micronesia	19.09.1995	A		19.09.1995	A			19.09.1995	A	
Moldova (Republic of)	24.05.1993	A		24.05.1993	A			24.05.1993	A	

INTERNATIONAL LAW, COMMUNICATION AND THE MOVEMENT

	GENEVA CONVENTIONS			PROTOCOL I			PROTOCOL II			
COUNTRY	R/A/S	R/D		R/A/S	R/D	D90	R/A/S	R/D		
Monaco	05.07.1950	R								
Mongolia	20.12.1958	A		06.12.1995	R	X	06.12.1995	06.12.1995	R	
Morocco	26.07.1956	A								
Mozambique	14.03.1983	A		14.03.1983	A					
Myanmar	25.08.1992	A								
Namibia	22.08.1991	S		17.06.1994	A		21.07.1994	17.06.1994	A	
Nepal	07.02.1964	A								
Netherlands	03.08.1954	R		26.06.1987	R	X	26.06.1987	26.06.1987	R	
New Zealand	02.05.1959	R	X	08.02.1988	R	X	08.02.1988	08.02.1988	R	
Nicaragua	17.12.1953	R								
Niger	21.04.1964	S		08.06.1979	R			08.06.1979	R	
Nigeria	20.06.1961	S		10.10.1988	A			10.10.1988	A	
Norway	03.08.1951	R		14.12.1981	R		14.12.1981	14.12.1981	R	
Oman	31.01.1974	A		29.03.1984	A	X		29.03.1984	A	X
Pakistan	12.06.1951	R	X							
Palau	25.06.1996	A		25.06.1996	A			25.06.1996	A	
Panama	10.02.1956	A		18.09.1995	R		26.10.1999	18.09.1995	R	
Papua New Guinea	26.05.1976	S								
Paraguay	23.10.1961	R		30.11.1990	A		30.01.1998	30.11.1990	A	
Peru	15.02.1956	R		14.07.1989	R			14.07.1989	R	
Philippines	06.10.1952	R						11.12.1986	A	
Poland	26.11.1954	R	X	23.10.1991	R		02.10.1992	23.10.1991	R	
Portugal	14.03.1961	R	X	27.05.1992	R		01.07.1994	27.05.1992	R	
Qatar	15.10.1975	A		05.04.1988	A	X	24.09.1991			
Romania	01.06.1954	R	X	21.06.1990	R		31.05.1995	21.06.1990	R	
Russian Federation	10.05.1954	R	X	29.09.1989	R	X	29.09.1989	29.09.1989	R	X
Rwanda	05.05.1964	S		19.11.1984	A		08.07.1993	19.11.1984	A	
Saint Kitts and Nevis	14.02.1986	S		14.02.1986	A			14.02.1986	A	
Saint Lucia	18.09.1981	S		07.10.1982	A			07.10.1982	A	
Saint Vincent Grenadines	01.04.1981	A		08.04.1983	A			08.04.1983	A	
Samoa	23.08.1984	S		23.08.1984	A			23.08.1984	A	
San Marino	29.08.1953	A		05.04.1994	R			05.04.1994	R	
Sao Tome and Principe	21.05.1976	A		05.07.1996	A			05.07.1996	A	
Saudi Arabia	18.05.1963	A		21.08.1987	A	X				
Senegal	18.05.1963	S		07.05.1985	R			07.05.1985	R	
Seychelles	08.11.1984	A		08.11.1984	A		22.05.1992	08.11.1984	A	
Sierra Leone	10.06.1965	S		21.10.1986	A			21.10.1986	A	
Singapore	27.04.1973	A								

INTERNATIONAL LAW, COMMUNICATION AND THE MOVEMENT

	GENEVA CONVENTIONS			PROTOCOL I			PROTOCOL II		
COUNTRY	R/A/S	S	R/D	R/A/S	S	R/D	D90	R/A/S	R/D
Slovakia	02.04.1993	S	X	02.04.1993	S		13.03.1995	02.04.1993	S
Slovenia	26.03.1992	S		26.03.1992	S		26.03.1992	26.03.1992	S
Solomon Islands	06.07.1981	S		19.09.1988	A			19.09.1988	A
Somalia	12.07.1962	A							
South Africa	31.03.1952	A		21.11.1995	A			21.11.1995	A
Spain	04.08.1952	R		21.04.1989	R	X	21.04.1989	21.04.1989	R
Sri Lanka	28.02.1959	R							
Sudan	23.09.1957	A							
Suriname	13.10.1976	S	X	16.12.1985	A			16.12.1985	A
Swaziland	28.06.1973	A		02.11.1995	A			02.11.1995	A
Sweden	28.12.1953	R		31.08.1979	R	X	31.08.1979	31.08.1979	R
Switzerland	31.03.1950	R		17.02.1982	R	X	17.02.1982	17.02.1982	R
Syrian Arab Republic	02.11.1953	R		14.11.1983	A	X			
Tajikistan	13.01.1993	S		13.01.1993	S		10.09.1997	13.01.1993	S
Tanzania (United Rep.of)	12.12.1962	S		15.02.1983	A			15.02.1983	A
Thailand	29.12.1954	A							
Togo	06.01.1962	S		21.06.1984	R		21.11.1991	21.06.1984	R
Tonga	13.04.1978	S							
Trinidad and Tobago	24.09.1963	A							
Tunisia	04.05.1957	A		09.08.1979	R			09.08.1979	R
Turkey	10.02.1954	R							
Turkmenistan	10.04.1992	S		10.04.1992	S			10.04.1992	S
Tuvalu	19.02.1981	S							
Uganda	18.05.1964	A		13.03.1991	A			13.03.1991	A
Ukraine	03.08.1954	R	X	25.01.1990	R		25.01.1990	25.01.1990	R
United Arab Emirates	10.05.1972	A		09.03.1983	A	X	06.03.1992	09.03.1983	A
United Kingdom	23.09.1957	R	X	28.01.1998	R	X	17.05.1999	28.01.1998	R
United States of America	02.08.1955	R	X						
Uruguay	05.03.1969	R	X	13.12.1985	A		17.07.1990	13.12.1985	A
Uzbekistan	08.10.1993	A		08.10.1993	A			08.10.1993	A
Vanuatu	27.10.1982	A		28.02.1985	A			28.02.1985	A
Venezuela	13.02.1956	R		23.07.1998	A			23.07.1998	A
Viet Nam	28.06.1957	A	X	19.10.1981	R				
Yemen	16.07.1970	A	X	17.04.1990	R			17.04.1990	R
Yugoslavia	21.04.1950	R	X	11.06.1979	R	X		11.06.1979	R
Zambia	19.10.1966	A		04.05.1995	A			04.05.1995	A
Zimbabwe	07.03.1983	A		19.10.1992	A			19.10.1992	A

Palestine

On 21 June 1989, the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs received a letter from the Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations Office at Geneva informing the Swiss Federal Council "that the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organization, entrusted with the functions of the Government of the State of Palestine by decision of the Palestine National Council, decided, on 4 May 1989, to adhere to the Four Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 and the two Protocols additional thereto".

On 13 September 1989, the Swiss Federal Council informed the States that it was not in a position to decide whether the letter constituted an instrument of accession, "due to the uncertainty within the international community as to the existence or non-existence of a State of Palestine".

1. Djibouti's declaration of succession in respect of the First Convention was dated 26 January 1978.
2. On accession to Protocol II, France made a communication concerning Protocol I.
3. Entry into force on 7 December 1978.
4. Entry into force on 7 December 1978.
5. Entered into force on 23 September 1966, the Republic of Korea having invoked Art. 62/61/141/157 common respectively to the First, Second, Third and Fourth Conventions (immediate effect).
6. An instrument of accession to the Geneva Conventions and their additional Protocols was deposited by the United Nations Council for Namibia on 18 October 1983. In an instrument deposited on 22 August 1991, Namibia declared its succession to the Geneva Conventions, which were previously applicable pursuant to South Africa's accession on 31 March 1952.
7. The First Geneva Convention was ratified on 7 March 1951.
8. Accession to the Fourth Geneva Convention on 23 February 1959 (Ceylon had signed only the First, Second and Third Conventions).
9. Entry into force on 21 October 1950.
10. Accession to the First Geneva Convention on 17 May 1963.

ICRC ACTION WITHIN THE MOVEMENT

ACTIVITIES OF THE STATUTORY BODIES

Work of the Standing Commission

The ICRC's two representatives on the Standing Commission actively participated in all the work carried out by the Commission in 1999, essentially preparations for the statutory meetings of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, that is to say the Council of Delegates and the 27th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent. In that connection, the Standing Commission again benefited from the opinions of eminent members of National Societies taking part in the ad hoc working groups making preparations for those meetings.

Although the issue of the emblem was dealt with at the Council of Delegates and, more briefly, at the Conference, it is one aspect of the Commission's work that warrants particular mention. The Commission had already presented its report on the matter to the 1997 Council of Delegates and continued its search for a solution. It organized consultations with legal and diplomatic experts in January 1999 to find a comprehensive solution, in addition to the present options, which would satisfy both the States and National Societies keen to retain the red cross and red crescent emblems and those which wished to see the introduction of a new emblem, or another solution equally acceptable to them all. The Commission submitted its proposals to a new group of experts, made up on this occasion of government representatives, which met in Geneva at the end of August 1999. On the basis of those various consultations, the Commission deemed it possible and desirable to involve the States in the process and proposed to the Council of Delegates, and subsequently to the International Conference, that they should so decide. The International Conference consequently adopted a resolution which called upon the Commission to pursue its work in association with the National Societies and States.

Council of Delegates

The Council of Delegates, which brings together representatives of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement (the National Societies, the ICRC and the Federation), met in Geneva from 28 to 30 October 1999 at the invitation of the ICRC and the Federation. In addition to preparations for the International Conference, the Council of Delegates devoted particular attention to the points set out below.

Since its adoption by the Council of Delegates held in Seville in November 1997, the Agreement on the organization of the international activities of the Movement's components has fostered a constructive working climate and succeeded in strengthening the unity of the Movement's work and its external image. Much remains to be done, however, to improve further the coordination and effectiveness of operations in emergency situations, principally as regards assistance. It was therefore decided that the Standing Commission would set up a working group responsible for drawing up proposals aimed at developing an overall strategy for the Movement.

Following the debate on public advocacy that took place during the 1997 Council of Delegates, the Movement felt it necessary to adopt a general policy on the

*implementation
of the Seville Agreement*

Movement policy on advocacy

adoption of a Movement mines strategy

Henry Durant Medal

matter and a shared definition of the term "advocacy". The 1999 Council therefore debated and adopted criteria for the launch of public campaigns by one or more of the Movement's components. The criteria lay down the framework for national, regional or world-wide campaigns by establishing rules on coordination within the Movement.

After having spared no effort in the campaign to ban anti-personnel mines, which culminated in the signing of the Ottawa treaty, the Movement's next step was to adopt a strategy to promote implementation of the measures set forth in the legal texts and resolutions adopted by the international community. The Movement's strategy sets out the measures to be taken and lays down a long-term framework for successfully harnessing energies and resources in this field. It clearly defines the role of each of the Movement's components (with the ICRC assuming a lead role) and encourages a greater effort to exchange information.

The Council of Delegates examined other subjects more briefly: the prevention of conflicts, children affected by armed conflict, street children, the promotion of the International Criminal Court, arms availability and respect for international humanitarian law; some of them are described in detail in this report. The Council of Delegates was chaired by Cornelio Sommaruga, the President of the ICRC, for the fifth and final time, since Mr Sommaruga came to the end of his presidential mandate at the end of 1999. It took place in a studious working environment and benefited from substantial contributions from many National Societies.

Four people were awarded the Henry Durant Medal, two of them posthumously, for their personal commitment and significant contributions to the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. They were:

Ms Ute Stührwoldt, a paediatric nurse from the German Red Cross;

Mr Donald Tansley, former Vice-President

of the Canadian International Development Agency;

Dr Byron R.M. Hove, Chairman of the Zimbabwe Red Cross Society, who died in 1998;

Dr Guillermo Rueda Montaña, President of the Colombian Red Cross, who died in 1998.

27th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent

The 27th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent was held in Geneva from 31 October (evening) to 6 November 1999. Chaired by Dr Mamdouh Gabr, the Secretary General of the Egyptian Red Crescent, the Conference went extremely well and broke ground in several areas in order to avoid a diplomatic routine likely to impair the dynamic approach required for a meeting dealing with humanitarian affairs.

Innovations were made both in the conduct and output of the Conference. The constructive atmosphere which prevailed during the debates and proceedings had a favourable effect on the results. The innovations included:

- the organization at the opening of the Conference of a cultural show open to the public, which brought together artists from around the world, on the subject of "The power of humanity", the Movement's key words for the years 1999-2000;

election of Standing Commission members

- the conduct of debates in a single commission, which met in plenary session and was open to the press, and during which 180 people spoke on three successive subjects: protection of victims of armed conflict through respect for international humanitarian law; humanitarian action in the event of armed conflict or other disasters; a strategic partnership to improve the lives of vulnerable people;
- the drafting of a Plan of Action for the years 2000 to 2003 by a drafting committee chaired by Philippe Kirsch, the Canadian Ambassador. The Plan of Action was adopted by the Conference and set out a humanitarian agenda for the governments and components of the Movement in the areas dealt with by the Plenary Commission;
- the adoption of a Conference Declaration, a short text expressing the commitment of the Conference members to implement in full the resolutions adopted;
- the submission of 350 individual pledges by National Societies, governments, the ICRC, the Federation and certain observers; the pledges demonstrate the willingness of the Conference members to take new, specific and dynamic action on a subject in a particular area of the Plan of Action;
- the organization of 14 informal workshops designed to examine a particularly complex problem or to facilitate debate on a topic upon which the Conference members were unable to reach a consensus or adopt a decision.

The Conference also took other decisions worthy of note: it revised the Regulations for the Empress Shôken Fund, thereby allowing greater flexibility in its use; it endorsed the Appeal of 12 August 1999¹² launched by fourteen international figures to mark the 50th anniversary of the signing of the Geneva Conventions; it adopted the Council of Delegates' proposal to set up a working group bringing together the States and the Movement's components to continue the search, under the aegis of the Standing Commission, for an overall solution to the issue of the emblems.

The Conference elected the Standing Commission members. The following candidates, presented by their National Society, were thus elected until the 28th International Conference:

- Princess Margriet of the Netherlands
(also elected Chairwoman of the Commission);
- Christina Magnuson (Sweden);
- Tadateru Konoe (Japan);
- Mohammed Al-Hadid (Jordan);
- Abdul Rahman Al Swailen (Saudi Arabia).

The other members of the Commission are:

- the President of the ICRC, Cornelio Sommaruga
(as of 1 January 2000, Jakob Kellenberger);
- Yves Sandoz, director at the ICRC (as of 1 January 2000, François Bugnion);
- the President of the Federation, Ms Astrid Heiberg;
- George Weber, Secretary General of the Federation
(as of 1 January 2000, Didier Cherpitel).

¹² See p. 349.

FUNCTIONAL COOPERATION BETWEEN THE ICRC AND THE INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT SOCIETIES

Consultation and coordination mechanisms in Geneva

The three principal consultation and cooperation mechanisms between the Federation and the ICRC, as revised and adapted pursuant to the Seville Agreement, continued to function. These mechanisms, which are designed to enable the Movement to meet the new challenges it faces more effectively, are described below.

Senior management meetings, usually held every six or seven weeks, bring together the Secretary General and Under Secretaries General of the Federation and the ICRC Directors. They are designed to encourage innovative cooperation and promote better understanding of the essential problems and priorities of each institution and therefore dealt with topics such as the Seville Agreement, strategies for the future and specific operational contexts.

The Joint ICRC/Federation Commission, which oversees cooperation between the two organizations in general, not including operational activities, meets on average three times a year. Its work focuses on preparations for the Movement's statutory meetings, communication, upholding and disseminating the Fundamental Principles, promoting international humanitarian law and protecting the integrity of the National Societies. The Joint Commission met on five occasions in 1999 and dealt in particular with the preparations for the Council of Delegates, the 27th International Conference and other meetings organized on the sidelines of those events, such as the meeting of Ambassadors.

The mandate of the Joint Commission for National Society Statutes - set out in Resolution VI of the 22nd International Conference (Tehran) and Resolution XX of the 24th International Conference (Manila) - remained unchanged. The Commission issues recommendations on the recognition and admission of new National Societies and on amendments to the statutes of recognized Societies. In 1999 the Commission held five meetings during which the statutes of some thirty National Societies were revised or approved and the applications of four emerging Societies were closely scrutinized.

In fact, cooperation between the ICRC and the Federation is wide-ranging and not limited to the structured mechanisms described above. The two presidents meet regularly, as do the directors of operations, the latter to study in particular the possibility of launching or developing new initiatives relating to functional cooperation, to provide one another with information on the problems and issues which arise, and to attempt to resolve them together. Such exchanges are complemented by a similar process of contact and dialogue between each of the regional departments and geographic zones and in the field. Cooperation within the ad hoc groups set up by the Standing Commission constitutes a useful additional means of promoting mutual understanding and respect between the two institutions.

senior management meetings

Joint ICRC/Federation Commission

*Joint Commission
for National Society Statutes*

ICRC CONTRIBUTION TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF NATIONAL SOCIETIES

The aim of ICRC cooperation activities is to help each National Society increase its capacity to meet its specific responsibilities as a Red Cross or Red Crescent institution in areas of common concern such as the promotion of humanitarian law and the Movement's Fundamental Principles, the re-establishment of family links, conflict-preparedness, especially in the health sector, and the development of telecommunication networks. The ICRC also provides legal assistance to National Societies for the establishment or revision of their statutes and the implementation of national legislation pertaining to humanitarian law.

In 1999, the ICRC budgeted 57.7 million Swiss francs for cooperation activities comprising support for:

- the dissemination and information activities of 136 National Societies;
- the tracing activities of 89 National Societies;
- the conflict-preparedness activities of 70 National Societies;
- legal assistance for 22 National Societies.

These activities were carried out in close consultation and coordination with the Federation, the long-term goal being to build each National Society's capacity as a part of its institutional development process. In a cooperation programme, the National Society of a given country, together with the ICRC, defines its objectives and plan of action. The National Society manages, implements and monitors the programme's activities and reports back to the ICRC on their implementation.

The ICRC's cooperation activities are also carried out for the broader purpose of reinforcing the work of the Movement as a whole and achieving greater coherence in operations involving more than one component of the Movement. To this end, the ICRC deployed 42 delegates specifically in charge of cooperation activities with National Societies and reinforced the corresponding unit at headquarters. It organized three seminars in 1999 for all cooperation delegates in the field, focusing on National Society policy matters, capacity building and project management.

MEETINGS WITH NATIONAL SOCIETIES

On 14 May 1999, the ICRC organized a meeting during which the Movement's components gathered in working groups to discuss the implementation of the Seville Agreement and other topics concerning points on the agenda of the Council of Delegates and the Plan of Action of the 27th International Conference. Some thirty senior officials of 28 National Societies (vice presidents or members of the Federation Executive Board) attended the meeting, as did the presidents of the ICRC and the Federation, accompanied by their staff, and members of the International Committee.

In 1999 the ICRC was represented by its President and other members at a number of key events, including those listed below.

- 17-19 March: General Assembly of ACROFA (Association of French-speaking National Societies in Africa), Ouagadougou (Burkina Faso);
- 26-30 April: first Central European forum for cooperation with National Societies, Cavtat (Dubrovnik, Croatia);

*consultation and coordination
with the Federation*

meeting of 14 May 1999

regional conferences and meetings

*regional seminars organized
by National Societies
or with their cooperation*

- 2-4 June: 16th Inter-American Conference of Red Cross Societies, Santo Domingo (Dominican Republic);
- 23-30 July: "Youth Power 99", Stockholm (Sweden);
- 23-27 October: 12th session of the Federation's General Assembly, Geneva (Switzerland).
- 24-25 February: constituent meeting of the "Lomé Group", Lomé (Togo);
- 12-13 April: meeting of the secretaries general of the National Societies in the Indian subcontinent, Islamabad (Pakistan);
- 26-29 May: fourth workshop of the "Group de Praia", Dalaba (Guinea);
- 18-25 June: sixth workshop for officials of the dissemination and communication departments of the National Societies in Central America and the Spanish-speaking Caribbean, Guatemala City (Guatemala);
- 21-23 June: annual discussion meeting with the six National Societies in Central Africa, Libreville (Gabon);
- 23-25 June: fifth annual dissemination seminar for the five Central Asian National Societies, Khudzhand (Tajikistan);
- 13-14 July: first meeting of the presidents of the five Central Asian National Societies, Tashkent (Uzbekistan);
- 21-25 July: second international summer camp for Red Cross Youth, Da Nang (Viet Nam);
- 15-27 August: sixth Arab seminar for first-aid workers, Qarqanah (Tunisia);
- 4-6 October: round table for the tracing services of six Central European National Societies, Prague (Czech Republic);
- 5-6 October: workshop for the nine West African National Societies on "The humanitarian challenge posed by the proliferation of small arms", Bamako (Mali);
- 26-28 October: regional tracing workshop, Harare (Zimbabwe);
- 19-20 October: meeting of the presidents of Spanish-speaking National Societies, Madrid (Spain);
- 22-23 November: fourth annual round table for the tracing services of the fifteen National Societies of the former Soviet Union, Moscow (Russian Federation);
- 24-26 November: workshop for information department heads of southern African National Societies, Harare (Zimbabwe);
- 6-10 December: fourth Asian workshop on first aid in the community, Yangon (Myanmar).
- 25-28 August: Finnish Red Cross;
- 30 September - 1 October: Norwegian Red Cross.
- 30 June - 2 July: 60th anniversary of the Mongolian Red Cross Society;
- 3-4 May: 80th anniversary of the Czech Red Cross;
- 10-11 May: 80th anniversary of the Slovak Red Cross;
- 10 December: 75th anniversary of the Icelandic Red Cross.

*participation in General
Assemblies of National Societies*

National Society anniversaries

INTERNATIONAL LAW, COMMUNICATION AND THE MOVEMENT

recognition of a National Society

*National Society representatives
received at headquarters*

Florence Nightingale Medal

Empress Shôken Fund

Maurice de Madre French Fund

On 19 August 1999, the ICRC Assembly recognized, on the recommendation of the Joint Commission for National Society Statutes, the Gabonese Red Cross Society.

At the request of the National Societies or having itself issued invitations, the ICRC organized 53 visits for 137 National Society leaders, managers, senior officials and staff. The visits, whose purpose is to enhance knowledge of the ICRC, the way it functions and its activities throughout the world, also offer an opportunity for discussions on matters of common interest, promote mutual understanding and provide an opportunity to strengthen the Movement's unity.

FUNDS AND MEDALS

On 12 May 1999, the ICRC announced to the Central Committees of the National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies the recipients of the 37th award of the Florence Nightingale Medal. Twenty-one award winners from the following countries were thus honoured: Austria, Chile, China, Denmark, Japan, (the Republic of) Korea, Lebanon, Mongolia, New Zealand, Poland, Thailand and the United States.

The Empress Shôken Fund was created in 1912 by a gift from the Empress of Japan to support the work carried out by the National Societies in time of peace. At the end of the 1998 financial year, the Fund was worth 7.1 million Swiss francs. The revenue is used to fund projects carried out by the National Societies in the following areas: disaster preparedness, health, youth activities, blood transfusion services, social welfare and the dissemination of the humanitarian ideals of the Red Cross and Red Crescent.

The Joint Commission which administers and supervises the financial management of the Fund awarded grants on 11 April, the anniversary of the death of Empress Shôken, as it does every year. In 1999 those grants amounted to 339,600 Swiss francs and were awarded to the National Societies of the following countries: Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Dominica, Grenada, the Cook Islands, Indonesia, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Madagascar, Pakistan, Poland, São Tomé and Príncipe, Ukraine and Uruguay.

After examining the trends observed over the last ten years and consulting representatives of the Japanese Red Cross and government, the Joint Committee approved a minor amendment to Article 3 of the Fund's Regulations, thereby allowing the release of the maximum amount of resources for projects while at the same time keeping the capital intact. The new wording was adopted by the 27th International Conference.

The Maurice de Madre French Fund was established thanks to the generosity of Count Maurice de Madre, who died in 1970 and bequeathed part of his property to assist staff members of National Societies, the Federation or the ICRC who are injured, fall ill or are the victim of accidents while in the service of the Movement or, in the event of their death, to assist their families. By way of an exception, awards may be made even where the illness, accident or death is not directly related to activities within the Movement. The Fund may also contribute to the training of recipients and/or to help them to return to their professions.

In 1999 the Fund's Board met on two occasions, 16 March and 14 September. It considered applications totalling 81,300 Swiss francs relating to Movement staff members or their relatives in the following countries: Afghanistan, Angola, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Burundi, Colombia, Congo, the Democratic Republic of the

Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Liberia, Mexico, Rwanda, Senegal, Sudan, Sierra Leone, Uganda, Viet Nam, Yugoslavia and Zambia.

ICRC POLICY GUIDELINES

ICRC policy is based on a series of guidelines on the nature and implementation of the Fundamental Principles of the Red Cross and Red Crescent and on the general principles of international humanitarian law. Those guidelines are extremely relevant to the ICRC in situations of armed conflict since they help the organization promote the application of humanitarian law. They are particularly pertinent in situations of internal unrest or internal tension, because the best argument the ICRC has to persuade a government to accept an offer of services based on its right of humanitarian initiative lies in how scrupulous it is in carrying out its work in compliance with the Fundamental Principles and the guidelines derived from them.

ICRC study on women affected by armed conflict

In the course of its activities to assist and protect women specifically, the ICRC realized that it needed to know more about the many ways women are affected by armed conflict and cope with such situations. In 1998 it decided to draw up a position paper on this issue and to include an overview of its activities for women. It embarked on a study whose purpose was to draw on the lessons of the past and present with a view to improving the quality, relevance and impact of ICRC services.

Throughout 1998 and 1999, all the ICRC's delegations were asked to provide detailed information on their activities to assist and protect women affected by armed conflict. A comprehensive internal paper was drafted on the needs of women in wartime and on the activities undertaken in this respect. This information, together with that gathered from women themselves in the framework of the "People on War" campaign, is being used to analyse the impact of ICRC activities on women. The ICRC is also examining whether humanitarian law provides adequate coverage of women's needs in situations of armed conflict.

All these efforts will go towards implementing the pledge made by the ICRC in 1999 at the 27th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, at which the ICRC stated that it was deeply concerned by the occurrence of sexual violence in armed conflicts. Sexual violence, in all its forms, is prohibited under international humanitarian law and vigorous action should be taken to prevent it.

The study will be concluded in 2000 and the results presented at a meeting of other humanitarian organizations so as to obtain their input. The ICRC will use the study to draw up a set of guidelines aimed at enhancing the assistance and protection afforded to women affected by armed conflicts.

The ICRC pledged:

- *to emphasize respect for women and girl children in all its activities, focusing on active dissemination among the parties to armed conflicts of the prohibition of all forms of sexual violence;*
- *to ensure that the specific protection, health and assistance needs of women and girl children affected by armed conflicts are appropriately assessed in its operations for the purpose of alleviating the plight of the most vulnerable.*

*the changing context
of humanitarian action*

Fundamental Principles

The ICRC also carried out a review of the meaning and value of the Movement's Fundamental Principles, in particular the principle of neutrality, in order to adapt their definitions to contemporary contexts and challenges.

As part of the "Avenir" project, the ICRC analysed the changing nature of the conflicts and situations in which it and other humanitarian organizations worked in the late 1990s. The study highlighted a number of trends. For example, the end of the struggle between the dominant ideologies and the collapse of one of the two blocs has made conflicts more unpredictable and rendered it more difficult to identify their goals; the implosion and bankruptcy of certain States has created areas where law and order no longer applies or where various armed and/or criminal groups impose their own rules; and armed opposition groups are tending to become criminalized, thereby reducing the scope for dialogue, in particular in terms of safeguarding the humanitarian interests of the civilian population. On the basis of these findings, the ICRC carried out various studies in an attempt to gain a better understanding of the environment in which humanitarian organizations now act and to adapt its operational policy.

DISSEMINATION OF INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW AND COMMUNICATION

Events in 1999 underscored the importance both of promoting knowledge of international humanitarian law and principles, and of translating that knowledge into action in times of conflict. It was with this in mind that the ICRC's new Communication Division, bringing together traditional dissemination and communication functions, got down to work. The Division's mission, adopted in December 1998, is to provide the ICRC with the expertise and means to make an impact on the attitudes and behaviour of those who determine the fate of war victims and those who can obstruct or facilitate ICRC action, and to ensure a strong corporate identity and image to support the organization and its operations overall.

It is clearly first and foremost the responsibility of States to respect and ensure respect for humanitarian law and to spread knowledge of its rules. However, the number of ongoing conflicts and the amount of suffering they caused, in particular among non-combatants, did not diminish in 1999; indeed, new crises arose involving the international community and calling for reminders of both the rules applicable to and the roles of military action and independent humanitarian activity. For this reason, the Division made armed and security forces and key players in civil society priority target groups, working to improve its understanding of each group's attitudes and perceptions as a basis for more effective communication.

PROMOTION OF INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW

During 1999, programmes and specific projects of preventive action designed for established structures such as armed and security forces, universities and schools were carried out from the ICRC's field delegations and its Geneva headquarters.

The armed forces

The ICRC maintained its efforts to promote the incorporation of international humanitarian law into armed forces command procedures and military instruction programmes. The setting up of a centre of military expertise as part of the new Communication Division and the sustained commitment of the multinational network of humanitarian law training officers enabled the 22 delegates to armed and security forces in the field to work even harder to professionalize the instruction and education of service personnel. The delegates also participated in multinational military exercises and fostered dialogue between civil society and the military in order to clarify the respective roles of the military, political and humanitarian spheres in resolving complex crisis situations.

With this in mind, the ICRC cooperated closely in 1999 with UN and NATO military representatives on the concept of civil-military cooperation (CIMIC). The aim is to establish a concept of cooperation between the armed forces, politicians and humanitarian practitioners that is acceptable to the principal parties involved in a crisis situation, thereby making it possible to incorporate humanitarian law into operations and better distribute roles among the parties concerned.

*facilitating management
of complex crises*

creating the humanitarian "reflex"

military instruction

*setting up a pool of military
instructors*

"training the trainers"

ICRC specialists established strategic contacts with various armed forces. For example, they participated in five major NATO exercises in order to ensure they took account of humanitarian law and humanitarian action. They also organized four briefings on the ICRC's principal activities and humanitarian objectives for defence attachés accredited in Switzerland.

The ICRC continued its crisis management training project INTACT (Interactive Crisis Management Training), which was launched in 1998 in cooperation with the Geneva Centre for Security Policy. The project's fifth and final module, "Peace-keeping operations", was tested during an international course organized by the Centre. The project is aimed at middle management personnel in military and diplomatic spheres whom it provides with training in the strategic management of situations of peace, tension, non-international and international armed conflict, and peace-keeping or peace-restoration operations.

The ICRC presented a model handbook on the law of armed conflict for armed forces¹³ to the international community at the 27th International Conference (in accordance with the mandate given to it by the 26th Conference). Governments were requested to adopt the manual, to use it as a reference document and to draw on it in producing their own manuals or national programmes of military training.

Finally, specialists from the Division maintained regular contact with the management bodies of internationally renowned military academies such as the NATO Defence College in Rome, the "Collège Interarmées de Défense" in Paris, the "Führungsakademie der Bundeswehr" in Hamburg and the "Landesverteidigungsakademie" in Vienna, where future senior armed forces officers are trained. In that context, they presented a new training film, "Fighting by the rules".

In order to enhance its ability to intervene judiciously in the instruction of military personnel, the ICRC trained 19 new military instructors in the law of armed conflict. It thus expanded its reservoir of experts upon whom the ICRC's permanent delegates can call to carry out training activities or make replacements.

Police and security forces

The ICRC stepped up its efforts to provide adequate training for police and security forces in the rules and principles of humanitarian law and human rights. The increasing involvement of these forces in situations of internal strife or conflict had prompted the ICRC regional delegation in Brazil to develop a pilot project in 1998 to train Brazilian military police instructors, so that they could in turn provide instruction in local academies.¹⁴ In view of the success of the project, the ICRC deployed three additional police and security forces delegates in 1999, in Brasilia, Kiev and Pretoria. An initial pool of 15 police instructors was also created by the ICRC, in order to support its staff when necessary.

As a result, training for police and security forces was carried out on all continents during the year. A seminar was held for senior police officers in Uganda, and police instructors were trained in Uganda and Indonesia. Other seminars or courses were conducted in Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, Ecuador, Ethiopia, India, Jamaica, Lesotho, Mexico, Moldova, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, the Solomon Islands and Ukraine.

¹³ "Fight it Right: Model Manual of the Law of Armed Conflict for the Armed Forces", ICRC, 1999.

¹⁴ See the ICRC's 1998 Annual Report, p. 148.

pilot project evaluation

Since many organizations are active in police training, the ICRC took steps to avoid duplication of efforts. In Bosnia-Herzegovina, for example, discussions were held with the IPTF* to ensure the complementarity of training programmes, while in Uganda, work with the police force was designed to complement programmes undertaken by the Raoul Wallenberg Institute at the University of Lund and the Danish Centre for Human Rights.

The initial pilot project with Brazil's military police continued under the supervision of a senior Brazilian police officer seconded to the ICRC delegation in Brasilia.¹⁵ In view of the project's importance, the University of São Paulo was asked to carry out an independent evaluation of it. The evaluation should provide critical insight into the method used and the project's impact, and will serve to prepare future police training programmes.

Humanitarian law and the academic world

In 1999, the ICRC stepped up its programmes to promote international humanitarian law in universities and other institutions of higher education. Its programmes were conducted by some fifteen specialized delegates in the field and coordinated by the delegate for academic circles based at the Communication Division. They aimed specifically:

a) to promote the systematic introduction of the teaching of humanitarian law into the curricula of the world's leading universities

To that end the ICRC cooperated even more closely with other institutions active in the dissemination of humanitarian law, such as the San Remo International Institute of Humanitarian Law, DI 90* and UNITAR.* It also drew up plans for standard courses and approached the competent authorities in many countries.

b) to make available to the lecturers concerned documents and teaching aids specially adapted to meet their needs

The ICRC published a reference work for the dissemination of international humanitarian law in the academic world. The first of its kind, "How does law protect in War?",¹⁶ provides the lecturers and students concerned with almost two hundred practical cases taken from recent case-law and practice and contains proposals on study programmes intended for faculties of law, political science and journalism.

The aim of the book is to demonstrate that humanitarian law is applicable in contemporary practice and that it sets out criteria for responding to the legal issues which arise during armed conflicts.

By publishing the book, the ICRC hopes primarily to encourage universities to introduce a dynamic approach to the teaching of humanitarian law. It also seeks to make available to the lawyers concerned a reference tool on the case-law of humanitarian law.

c) to train lecturers specializing in human rights, international public law, political science and communication in the teaching of humanitarian law

* IPTF: United Nations International Police Task Force

¹⁵ See pp. 220-221.

* DI 90: "Droit International" 90

* UNITAR: United Nations Institute for Training and Research

¹⁶ Marco Sassóli and Antoine Bouvier, "How Does Law Protect in War?", ICRC, Geneva, 1999, 1492 pages.

The ICRC pursued its training programmes for lecturers, in particular in the Russian Federation, Central Asia, Nigeria and Kenya.

d) to set up and run specialized courses aimed at advanced students or lecturers regardless of whether they are established or at the start of their careers

This area of activity was substantially developed in 1999. For example, the ICRC set up and ran three similar courses aimed at students and young lecturers from Europe, North America and South Asia. The courses were organized with the support of the Polish Red Cross, the Belgian Red Cross and the University of Bangalore respectively; they were attended by over 60 advanced students and, for the first time, some 40 young lecturers and specialized staff members from the ICRC and National Red Cross or Red Crescent Societies.

In addition, the ICRC took an active part in the first courses under the multi-faculty humanitarian action programme set up by the University of Geneva, and increased its participation in several European training programmes (NOHA,* European Higher Diploma in Human Rights and Democratization, etc.).

Finally, it again organized a moot-court competition for students from the former Soviet Union and actively supported the 11th Jean Pictet International Humanitarian Law Competition.

Programmes for young people

The interest shown by young people and their teachers in the problems associated with conflict situations was demonstrated on many occasions in 1999. The sessions which ICRC delegates organized in various regions of the world revealed that despite the stream of information broadcast by the media, young people wanted to gain a better understanding of events connected with armed violence both near and far and to be better acquainted with the means available to safeguard human dignity in all circumstances. The sessions were organized around various projects.

This first year of the "Let's Explore IHL" project, which was launched in 1998, was given over to a critical examination of the various teaching materials and documents which exist at present and to producing a first trial education module. The National Societies in a dozen countries of Europe, Asia, Africa, the Americas and the Middle East cooperated in the exploratory phase, in particular by organizing discussion meetings with groups of young people at which the major concerns and dominant perceptions of the participants were noted and understood. The discussions were analyzed and the relevant aspects will be incorporated into future modules.

The project, which is being conducted with the assistance of outside experts, is targeted at adolescents. It centres on the use of teaching modules aimed at getting young people to think about the need to limit, in accordance with humanitarian law, the means and methods used in armed conflict.

The aim of the teaching module, "The violence of exploitation, the exploitation of violence", devised jointly by the ICRC and UNICEF, is to deal with the problems of violence and exploitation by considering the extreme situations experienced by child soldiers and child workers, to reveal the mechanisms behind them, to offer possible courses of action and to reaffirm the relevant provisions of international treaties.

"Let's Explore IHL"

joint ICRC-UNICEF project

* NOHA: Network on Humanitarian Assistance

support for delegations

In 1999, about 1,000 copies of the module, including two short films and teaching files, were distributed through the Red Cross/Red Crescent network and national committees for UNICEF in English- and French-speaking countries.

An initial evaluation of the project will be carried out in 2000 to determine how it should be followed up, including its adaptation with a view to greater distribution in non-Western countries.

The programmes for young people drawn up by the ICRC delegations in various contexts received the backing of the Communication Division's Education and Behaviour Unit. Particular care is taken to ensure that programmes do not vary from one country to another, and the programmes drawn up in the CIS for secondary school children were thus especially closely observed in 1999. Four CIS countries (Georgia, Russia, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan) published new manuals, while two others (Azerbaijan and Armenia) tested experimental versions. All of them paid particular attention to the training of teachers by means of seminars.¹⁷

SUPPORT FOR DISSEMINATION AND COMMUNICATION PROGRAMMES IN THE FIELD

In order to provide the necessary backing for the work of about 70 delegates and 200 local staff in charge of communication in the field, the Communication Division set up an operational support unit comprising a dozen people at headquarters. The unit also liaises between the delegations and ICRC headquarters in connection with all matters relating to communication.

In 1999, around two-thirds of the staff responsible for dissemination and communication programmes were operating in conflict situations. Through their public relations work they helped ensure better protection for victims, facilitated ICRC access to conflict areas and improved the security of personnel in the field.

The conflicts in Kosovo, East Timor and Chechnya presented the ICRC with major challenges in 1999. Those conflicts, from which humanitarian organizations were kept away during crucial periods, posed risks to the security of humanitarian personnel and necessitated great care in communication. Moreover, the speed with which they developed required the immediate organization of communication teams and programmes.

In Kosovo and East Timor, the ICRC felt obliged by the involvement of NATO and INTERFET* in certain matters of humanitarian concern and the increased role of the Military Liaison Office in civilian matters to appoint a liaison delegate to those organizations.

However, those crises, which were the focus of sustained media attention, should not be allowed to eclipse the humanitarian programmes carried out in conflicts affecting Africa, Afghanistan and Latin America, for example. Nor should they obscure the fact that communication efforts are made at the height of war and in the face of combatants for whom the mere presence of humanitarian organizations is difficult to accept.

In that context, the ICRC pursued the approach it adopted in the early 1990s and which consists in using local relays to make its humanitarian message understood

¹⁷ See pp. 176, 184, 270, 281 and 287.

* INTERFET: International Force for East Timor

and in adapting its products and arguments to local contexts and cultures. That approach, which was reinforced by consultations conducted in 1999 in 17 countries as part of the "People on War" project,¹⁸ led to the creation of new communication programmes both in terms of the consultation methods used and the nature of the messages.

Finally, the ICRC stepped up its efforts to train local staff members, thereby creating a pool of over 80 qualified dissemination and communication employees in 1999.

RELATIONS WITH THE MEDIA

Although humanitarian operations remained in the media spotlight throughout much of 1999, journalists' interest tended to be sharply heightened during high-profile humanitarian emergencies and to dip during less obviously traumatic times. One of the ICRC's greatest challenges is to supply the media with the information required to keep the world's attention focused on the fate of the victims of conflict.

In 1999, the ICRC was more determined than ever to improve the level of public debate on humanitarian affairs and to move humanitarian matters higher up on the public agenda. This is often most effectively done by describing the very real and often difficult "dilemmas" faced by ICRC staff.

ICRC press officers sought to strike a balance each and every day between a strong and coherent public image and the requirements of sensitive field operations. Despite the constraints, the ICRC was able to produce a wide range of quality products and to make meaningful contributions to the written, broadcast and digital media.

One of the ICRC's strengths was its capacity to draw on the world-wide network of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. This was particularly true in terms of the media. The organization placed greater emphasis in 1999 on maintaining good channels of communication with press officers from across the Movement.

PUBLIC INFORMATION

The ICRC's presence on the Web was further expanded in 1999 thanks in particular to the creation of a site on the 50th anniversary of the Geneva Conventions (see above), the development of the ICRC's main site (www.icrc.org) and the ICRC's involvement in the preparation and launch of the Movement's site, intended primarily for the National Societies.

The number of hits on the main ICRC site, which can be consulted in English, French and Spanish, increased by 17% between June and November alone. The site's graphic design was remodelled to provide greater visual coherence among all the ICRC's Websites and pages.

The main site was expanded over the year by the opening during the Kosovo crisis of a modified page on the restoration of family ties and a section containing information on national measures to implement humanitarian law. The aim of the latter is to support State efforts to promulgate appropriate implementing legislation.

ICRC Websites

¹⁸ See pp. 348-350.

publications

The Movement Website was launched for the opening of the 27th International Conference at the end of October. The site is a joint venture between the Federation and the ICRC, and was sponsored by the Reuters Foundation (London); it aims to serve as a window on the humanitarian work of the Movement's various components and to support capacity-building within National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

ICRC headquarters continued to produce periodicals such as the "International Review of the Red Cross", which was given a new look and format, the "Red Cross, Red Crescent" magazine (published jointly with the Federation) and the "Annual Report"; it launched "Forum", a collection of writings by people actively involved in complex emergencies that is to appear regularly. The contributors to the 1999 issue presented a variety of standpoints on water and war.

Other key ICRC publications issued in 1999 included: "Arms Availability and the Situation of Civilians in Armed Conflict";¹⁹ "Staying Alive", a paperback providing safety and security guidelines for humanitarian volunteers in conflict areas; "Respect for International Humanitarian Law", a handbook for parliamentarians published jointly with the Inter-Parliamentary Union, and the French version of "Hard Choices: Moral Dilemmas in Humanitarian Intervention".²⁰

audiovisual material

Links continued to be forged with broadcasters and producers to encourage transmission of news, features and documentaries on humanitarian issues of concern to the ICRC. In cooperation with the European Broadcasting Union in Geneva and TV news agencies, television footage of ICRC activities in, for example, the Balkans, East Timor, Liberia and on the Ingushetia/Chechnya border were distributed to broadcasters around the world. Where possible, broadcasters covering humanitarian issues were given assistance in the field. Co-productions completed in 1999 included programmes for BBC World, APTN's "Roving Report", UNDP's* "Azimuths" and Euronews.

A variety of multimedia, video and radio material was also produced in 1999 for use in the "People on War" campaign to mark the 50th anniversary of the Geneva Conventions. In addition, a number of short films were shot to meet institutional needs in terms of dissemination and training, "The Ottawa Treaty" was produced to explain the terms of the ban on anti-personnel landmines, and the video version of "Panorama" was made available to a wide audience in nine languages.

restoration of old films

A new project was launched in 1999 to restore the ICRC's collection of old film material, dating from the First World War to the end of the 1950s. The material, which is extremely useful to understanding the ICRC's work during that period, cannot be made public on account of its poor state of preservation. The aim of the project, which is supported by the "Association Memoriam pour la sauvegarde de la mémoire audiovisuelle suisse", is to make all that material available to researchers and film producers.

¹⁹ See pp. 360-361.

²⁰ Jonathan Moore, "Des choix difficiles : les dilemmes moraux de l'humanitaire", Gallimard, Paris, 1999, 459 pages.

* UNDP: United Nations Development Programme

Historical research

The ICRC continued to do historical research, in particular for internal purposes. Its researchers also dealt with outside requests relating to matters subject to a 50-year waiting period, the archives on which are consequently not open to the public. They continued compiling a history of the ICRC during the periods from 1945 to 1955 and 1956 to 1965, and to supply the ICRC's history page on the Web with material. Contacts were maintained with former delegates to record their accounts of past events.

INTERNATIONAL TRACING SERVICE

The origin of the International Tracing Service (ITS) goes back to 1943, when the Allied powers set up a central tracing bureau at the British Red Cross in London. Its aim was to coordinate international tracing activities with regard to missing civilians and those deported by the National Socialist regime.

After changing its headquarters and administration on several occasions, the ITS moved to Bad Arolsen in Germany. Ten countries now assume responsibility for it: Belgium, France, Germany, Greece, Israel, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom and the United States. Poland was admitted in 1998 but has yet to ratify its membership. The member countries set up the ITS International Commission, a supervisory authority comprising their representatives, which meets at least once a year and approves the annual report and the objectives and budget for the following year. Under the Bonn Agreements signed by the Allied powers and the Federal Republic of Germany in 1955, the member states entrusted responsibility for the management and administration of the ITS to the International Committee of the Red Cross.

The mandate of the ITS is to collect, file, preserve and retrieve personal documents concerning civilian victims of persecution under the Third Reich. In 1998 the Commission decided to open up the ITS's documents to historical research in accordance with procedures which are still under consideration.

A particular effort was made in 1999 to digitalize the ITS documents. Work on the central card file, started in 1998, was completed as planned by the end of 1999. About 47 million cards were processed. This should make it possible to respond more quickly (within about six months) to all applications made to the ITS, assuming that a response is based solely on the information contained in the central file. Since it is essential to supply information quickly to the former victims of persecution who apply to the ITS and who are now very old, the ITS will continue to do its utmost to persuade those who grant funds to accept such information as a working basis.

At the same time, the ITS pursued its efforts to acquire documents in order to obtain the most complete collection possible and thus to provide the maximum amount of information to the former victims of persecution applying to it. In 1999, it focused on the archive services of the towns, municipalities, administrative districts, and prisons of the federal states of Germany, and on the companies doing business during the relevant period. The states' various data protection laws pose an obstacle which has yet to be overcome and to which the ITS is continuing to look for solutions.

In 1999, over 250,000 responses were given to former victims of persecution. That number is slightly lower than the 1998 figure on account of the efforts made to prepare for digitalization, but the shortfall should be largely offset by the advantages digitalization will provide.

In addition, the ITS conducted an in-depth examination of the state of its documents, some of which are on paper that has become extremely brittle. It will continue that examination with a view to taking all appropriate measures to preserve the documents in the best possible condition.

Finally, the International Commission of the ITS began studying new access procedures for historical research, thus implementing the decision adopted in 1998. This task is complicated because it has to take account of all the aspects of the problem, in particular document security and protection of individual data. Initial conclusions are to be presented at the next meeting of the International Commission in May 2000.



OPERATIONAL SUPPORT SERVICES



Safe drinking water is vital to survival. When conflict destroys local water-supply networks, the ICRC sets up emergency systems to guarantee fresh water for the civilian population. In 1999, the ICRC provided and/or installed water-supply and sanitation equipment worth 16.8 million Swiss francs.

1999, a turning point for ICRC resources

Throughout 1999, the ICRC's support divisions had to adapt in order to meet numerous internal and external challenges arising within the framework of the 1998 Avenir project.

In terms of human resources, the constantly changing nature of humanitarian operations placed increasing demands on staff expertise and skills. An effort was made to lay out career plans, enabling the ICRC to call at any time on highly qualified, trained and experienced staff and thus to respond rapidly and effectively to needs. The ICRC also set up a number of projects aimed at improving the process by which it recruits, trains and posts its personnel, notably by more clearly defining the skills required to perform humanitarian tasks. It revised its pay system, so as to promote both staff equity and mobility. In order to strengthen its training policy, the Resources Directorate established a unit to reflect on and put into operation the ICRC's planned training centre.

Last but certainly not least, the ICRC benefited from substantial support in terms of human resources not only from the National Societies, whose staff made a major contribution to the implementation of operational activities in the field, but also from its countless local employees, whose work is a crucial factor in the smooth running of ICRC delegations. In spite of these additional forms of support in human resources, the ICRC nevertheless finds it difficult to have the personnel capacity required to meet its needs in a satisfactory manner.

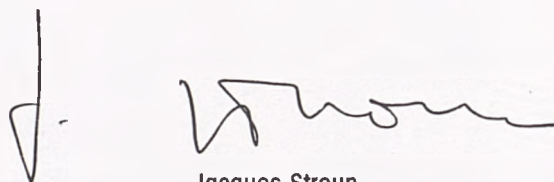
In financial terms, the ICRC's budget (field and headquarters) hit a record of one billion Swiss francs in 1999. The donors provided outstanding support, enabling the organization to remain financially sound and to carry out its planned activities. The implementation rate, for its part, reached an unprecedented 84%.

Again within the framework of the Avenir project, the ICRC overhauled its financing process in 1999, putting in place a three-pronged comprehensive plan of action covering forecasts, diversification and flexibility. The plan is designed to help the organization improve the planning and management of its financial resources.

The period under review was also marked by the implementation of the first integrated International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement operation during the

Balkans crisis and the launch of a joint appeal to the donors. This experience, conducted in accordance with the Seville Agreement, was a source of valuable lessons in terms of both human and financial resources, and it will be evaluated with a view to defining more effective joint guidelines for the future.

On a more technical level, the ICRC's Finance Division introduced a new financial system in 1999, giving the organization the means of drawing up reliable financial data adapted to a high-quality internal and external reporting system. This development is part of the establishment and implementation by the ICRC of enterprise resource planning, which aims to equip the organization with lasting computer applications and thereby enable it to meet financial and management needs and to obtain trustworthy and shared data by transmitting them between the different services providing operational support.



Jacques Stroun

Director of Human Resources and Finance

HUMAN RESOURCES

The objective of the Human Resources Division is to recruit, train and develop ICRC staff members with a view to ensuring that the organization can call on a sufficient number of appropriately trained staff to conduct its operations.

In quantitative terms, 1999 was marked by a considerable increase in the need for experienced staff on account of numerous operational developments, such as the crises in Kosovo and East Timor, the reopening of the ICRC delegation in Burundi, the resumption of the conflict in Angola and the start of new activities in certain contexts (Myanmar, the Solomon Islands, etc.). A recruitment drive was launched, but it nevertheless proved difficult to fill all field positions, and the ICRC was obliged to deploy staff based at headquarters and to transfer staff members from other operations.

In qualitative terms, the many changes undergone by the ICRC in recent years reflect the changing nature of humanitarian action itself, which has become more diverse, the focus of media attention and increasingly technical and specialized. These changes require greater know-how and expertise, for which the ICRC turns to specific professions and disciplines.

This development has also highlighted the need for more forward planning in respect of staff and posts in order to ensure, in the short and medium term, that individuals are available who are highly experienced and appropriately trained.

In response to these challenges, the ICRC launched a number of projects two years ago aimed at improving the various human resources processes, in particular the recruitment, training, assessment, assignment and development of its staff. Consequently, a new system of skills management and a new wage policy developed in 1999 will gradually be introduced in 2000, enabling the ICRC to meet future requirements for the right numbers of well-trained staff more effectively, in particular by encouraging staff members to acquire know-how and seek professional challenges. An essential first step in implementing these projects was a detailed and systematic assessment of the ICRC's requirements and assets in terms of human resources, and an external consultant was therefore commissioned to carry out an evaluation both at headquarters and in the field. The recommendations made in the evaluation will be used to make any adjustments still required to improve the ICRC's effectiveness in terms of human resources.

Recruitment

A particular effort was made to recruit staff in 1999 to meet the new and considerable needs arising from the ICRC's operations.

Over 300 new staff members were hired (122 delegates, 32 administrators, 21 secretaries, 19 interpreters, 53 medical and paramedical specialists and 58 engineers, technicians and computer specialists).

Furthermore, the National Societies of 24 countries continued to provide substantial support for ICRC operations by seconding staff to them. Thus, 498 people went on short- or long-term ICRC missions, including 177 in delegated projects. Throughout the year, an average 260 National Society staff thus made significant contributions to the ICRC's work.

Training

In 1999, the network of regional training centres set up in the field (Amman for Europe and the Middle East, Bogotá for Latin America, Colombo for Asia, and Nairobi for Africa) was extended and consolidated. The centres organized 13 introductory training courses for over 300 expatriate and local staff members. They also met the training needs of the delegations in their respective regions.

In Geneva, 227 staff members leaving on their first field mission took part in eight introductory training courses. A further 50 staff members attended three other courses organized jointly with the Federation at the respective headquarters of the two institutions.

A new concept of further training known as the "consolidation phase" was introduced. The objective is to increase the leadership skills of line managers at the right time and in accordance with the responsibilities they are given. Nine modules of the new cycle were carried out in 1999, three of them in the field.

Twenty basic training courses organized jointly with the participating National Societies and the Federation prepared 600 participants for international missions. A course specifically on the Seville Agreement was also run several times at headquarters and in certain National Societies.

Relations with those in charge of training at other humanitarian organizations (the United Nations, non-governmental-organizations) and with universities setting up humanitarian programmes were maintained and intensified.

Individualized training of staff members was the focus of a special effort in 1999, during which a unit specializing in individual counselling was set up. The unit responded to around 130 requests for individual training from staff members at headquarters and in the field. The number of such requests is rising steadily.

Finally, renovation work on the ICRC's future training centre in Ecogia, near Geneva, started in July. The centre is due to open in January 2001.

Internationalization

The ICRC must be able to call on staff members with the appropriate skills, and to that end it decided in 1993 to extend its catchment area for recruitment both via the National Societies and by recruiting directly outside Switzerland. Since then the proportion of non-Swiss staff members has grown constantly, and now stands at 35 % at headquarters and in the field.

Management of local staff members

The ICRC pursued its policy of enhancing the participation of local staff members, who can now rise to positions of responsibility. The aim of the policy is to improve the effectiveness of ICRC operations by making optimum use of the skills of local staff. The policy is two-pronged:

- each delegation establishes a policy it can implement in accordance with its employees' potential and the context in which it works;
- delegation employees occupying positions traditionally held by expatriates are managed from the administrative point of view by the Human Resources Division at headquarters and are subject to the rights and obligations inherent in their function.

*IN 1999, ON AVERAGE,
THE ICRC HAD:*

- 1,160 expatriate staff, including 260 seconded by National Societies;
- 7,596 local employees under ICRC contract;
- 600 staff working at headquarters, including nine seconded by National Societies.

OPERATIONAL SUPPORT SERVICES

For example, 77 delegation employees conducted missions outside their base delegation in 1999. At present, 27 delegation employees are on mission.

Staff health

The Staff Health Unit set up in 1999 is made up of four people. It is not strictly speaking a health service per se, but rather a coordinating body for the various activities linked to staff health. It operates in close cooperation with the security and stress unit and with the ICRC's medical advisers. Its principal activities are as follows:

- to brief delegates leaving for the field on health issues (1,130 interviews in 1999);
- to debrief delegates returning from mission (1,088 interviews in 1999);
- to take part in the basic training of delegates;
- to conduct field missions with a view to assessing problems of health and psychological support;
- to help draw up the ICRC's health policies.

NATIONAL SOCIETY STAFF SECONDED TO ICRC OPERATIONS, BY COUNTRY

Australia:	52
Austria:	5
Belgium:	15
Canada:	54
China:	1
Denmark:	19
Fiji:	1
Finland:	35
France:	20
Germany:	43
Greece:	3
Iceland:	12
Ireland:	9
Italy:	3
Japan:	22
Netherlands:	33
New Zealand:	16
Norway:	53
Republic of Korea:	1
Spain:	5
Sweden:	21
Switzerland:	7
United Kingdom:	57
United States:	11
TOTAL:	498

N. B. This list shows the number of people seconded and not the number of posts. The breakdown according to activity is as follows: delegates, 20%; health, 40%; logistics, 11%; relief, 7%; other, 5%; delegated projects, 17%.

PROGRESSION OF STAFF REQUIREMENTS 1990-1999

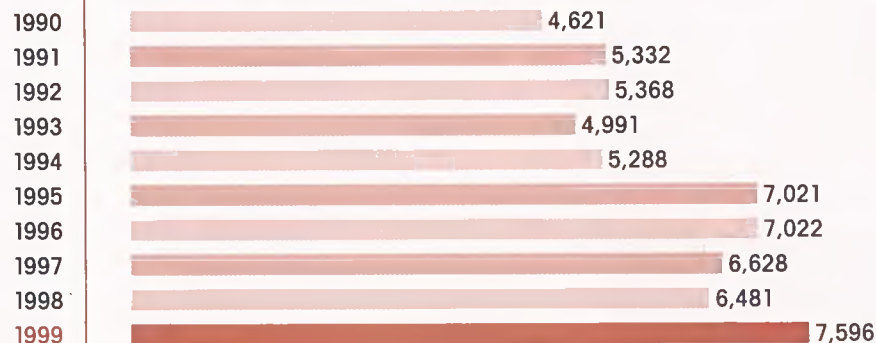
EXPATRIATES IN THE FIELD



STAFF SECONDED BY NATIONAL SOCIETIES



LOCALLY RECRUITED EMPLOYEES



STAFF WORKING AT HEADQUARTERS



*including 12, 13, 8
and 9 posts at headquarters
in 1996, 1997, 1998
and 1999, respectively.

EXTERNAL RESOURCES

Record budgets and contributions

The 1999 budget year was marked by expenditure rates that picked up steadily as the months went by. Although the initial Emergency Appeals were slightly lower than in 1998, in the course of the year the ICRC was called on to respond to a succession of crises that, while they had been anticipated, still retained a measure of unpredictability. As a result, it reviewed its objectives 11 times, increasing 10 operational budgets and reducing one. This brought its field budget to an unprecedented year-end total of 911.7 million Swiss francs.

One invariable common to each budget extension was the high proportion of assistance programmes, which rose from 47 % of the initial total budget (312 million Swiss francs) to 58 % (526 million) of the final total budget. In spite of this increase, the budget for assistance programmes was proportionately lower than in 1993, which held the previous record for field budgets, when operations in Somalia and the Balkans had led to a rise in the proportion of assistance programmes to over 70 % of total expenditure. This confirmed the trend mentioned in previous Annual Reports, i. e. an increase in the share of programmes focusing on core activities more specific to the ICRC, such as protecting detainees and civilians, restoring family links and promoting international humanitarian law.

The cumulative deficit at the end of 1998 stood at 2 million Swiss francs and was thus considerably lower than in previous years (there had been a record deficit in 1997 of Sfr 24.9 million). On the other hand, the implementation rate was particularly high in 1999, reaching 84 %. Only three operations - Sierra Leone, Burundi and the Republic of the Congo - had relatively low implementation rates, to a large extent because of the severe political and security constraints prevailing in these countries and the subsequent frequent suspension of certain ICRC activities.

The record amount of the cumulated appeals (Sfr 1.054 billion for both the headquarters and the field appeals) was matched by the generosity of donor response. The excellent coverage thus provided enabled the ICRC to carry out all planned activities and to finish the year in the black. As in the past, however, the fact that it did not know when it would actually receive the contributions posed a problem, with the organization having to wait until late in the year for confirmation that spending commitments would be covered. In 1999, the overwhelming donor response to the Balkans crisis during the first half of the year resulted in a steady deceleration in payments during the second half. The cash-flow situation was particularly acute in December, when spending commitments had to be respected, and many pledges were only received during the first quarter of the following year. Between January and March 2000, therefore, a period of the year in which payments of contributions are usually reduced and therefore substantially lower than the volume of disbursements, the ICRC was obliged more than once to run on an overdraft.

CONTRIBUTIONS RECEIVED FOR FIELD AND HEADQUARTERS BUDGETS

in cash, kind and services in 1999
by donor category (excluding assets)

GOVERNMENTS

610,645,225

EUROPEAN COMMISSION

63,568,531

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

1,266,399

SUPRANATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

251,415

NATIONAL SOCIETIES

131,741,238

PUBLIC SOURCES

5,060,833

PRIVATE SOURCES

23,445,254

GRAND TOTAL

Sfr 835,978,895

BALKANS CRISIS

PROTECTION

12,597,334

ASSISTANCE

133,415,892

PREVENTIVE ACTION

1,908,595

COOPERATION WITH NATIONAL SOCIETIES

1,810,507

OVERHEADS

6,738,613

GENERAL

2,018,859

TOTAL EXPENDITURE Sfr 158,489,800

The first-ever integrated appeal in response to the Balkans crisis

On 7 April 1999, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and the ICRC launched the Integrated Appeal of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement in response to the crisis in the Balkans. The initial appeal covered the period 1 April to 30 September. A Revised Integrated Appeal launched on 25 July extended that period to 31 December 1999. Both the Federation and the ICRC had, however, included programmes linked to the Balkans crisis in their respective 1999 Emergency Appeals, launched in January 1999. The total appeal figure for the ICRC's three country programmes in Albania, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia amounted to Sfr 33,978,555 (not counting the contingency or budgetary reserves, but including contributions in kind and services). In order to reconcile the yearly appeal figures with those of the two subsequent integrated appeals for the Balkans in the simplest and most transparent manner, it was decided that the initial 1999 Emergency Appeals should cover only the period from January to March 1999. As a result, the budget figures for those three country programmes were revised downwards, i. e. reduced to a cash budget of Sfr 5,171,715, corresponding to actual expenditure incurred during the first three months of 1999.

This large-scale operation met with a very favourable response from the donors. The ICRC was also pleased to note that most donors respected its instructions for non-earmarked or regional contributions, proving that this was possible. In order to cope with the increased workload created by the generous amount of contributions in kind, an extra staff position was created at the ICRC with a view to ensuring effective and efficient management by both institutions of goods on their way from the donors to the field.

In terms of fundraising, the Movement's first experience of an integrated appeal, while positive from many points of view, revealed how difficult it was to standardize the ICRC and the Federation's fundraising and reporting practices.

Fund-raising process restructured

In response to the recommendations of the Avenir project, which called on the ICRC to diversify its sources of funding so as to consolidate its donor base, the External Resources Division carried out a restructuring process in 1999. Five working groups (Funding Strategy, Internal Coordination, Communication with Donors, Management Tools and Human Resources) drew up an overall funding strategy, listed the organizational means required and established a plan of action with a view to giving the ICRC a fundraising policy, and thereby the financial means of carrying out its mission, that safeguarded its independence, reflected institutional strategy and objectives, and could be adapted to the changing donor environment. The following long-term objectives were set:

- **predictability:** secure advance funding commitments from major donors so as to ensure more accurate medium-term (2-3 years) financial planning for ICRC activities;

- **diversification**: broaden the ICRC donor base and obtain financial support from new budgetary lines among confirmed donors, reach new potential donor governments and obtain funding from a wider variety of private sources;
- **flexibility**: reduce the number of strings attached to contributions and earmarking constraints, and work towards standardization of donor requirements of the ICRC (e. g., in terms of reporting and submission procedures).

The strategy adopted was based on the three traditional pillars of ICRC funding: the governments, the National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, and private donors. The fact that the Movement's components launched an integrated appeal in 1999 should not be considered as laying the ICRC's funding principles open to question. Such appeals, drawn up in the framework of the Seville Agreement, will be managed on a case-by-case basis. Lastly, the financial strategy reflects the new management methods put in place by the ICRC, in particular, planning for results and impact evaluations; those methods will be incorporated into marketing, communication and reporting processes, as the 1999 Emergency Appeals already did.

Sources of funding and specific initiatives

- As a long-term follow-up to the 1997 and 1998 special appeals entitled "Assistance for Mine Victims", which proved very successful, the ICRC launched a special appeal of Sfr 105 million to seek financial coverage of its mine-related activities for a five-year period (1999-2003). The activities described in the appeal will form an integral part of the ICRC's field and headquarters budget over the next five years. The five-year approach represents a departure from the ICRC's usual yearly budget and appeals cycle, but was felt to be a way of ensuring that the new budgetary lines made available by both governments and supranational donors as part of the momentum created by the Ottawa treaty do not run dry; indeed, anti-personnel landmines remain a problem in many contexts and assistance for mine victims will be needed for years to come.
- The ICRC signed a three-year partnership agreement with Britain's DFID,* for the purpose of strengthening ICRC operational capabilities in the spheres of protection, assistance and preventive action. The partnership, which also involves the British Red Cross, will provide the ICRC with £15 million (about Sfr 38 million) per year, an amount which is unearmarked except for £4 million for the ICRC's global prevention work. Under the partnership, DFID staff will make two annual visits to ICRC delegations, and the ICRC will report to DFID on previously agreed key strategy and on activity impact indicators.
- During 1999, participating National Societies ran 49 projects delegated to them within the context of ICRC operations, and 34 bilateral projects under ICRC coordination. The participating National Societies were especially active in the Balkans, with 23 delegated and 34 bilateral projects, and specifically in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, owing to the success of their fundraising campaigns during the Kosovo crisis. One project was in the field of dissemination, all the rest were assistance programmes. Such projects represented a total contribution to ICRC budgets of Sfr 27.1 million, of which 16.4 million for the Balkans.

* DFID: Department for International Development

- ICRC private fund-raising activities also had a record year, with the ICRC donating some of the funds raised for the Balkans to the Federation. Support for National Society fund-raising campaigns, especially for the Balkans and other major conflict areas, resulted in the forging of closer ties and generated more funds. Particularly successful fund-raising efforts are detailed below.
 - a) The crisis in the Balkans made a huge impact on efforts to raise funds from private donors. Individuals, who for the first time also had the possibility to donate over the Internet, reacted promptly and generously to the Movement's Integrated Appeal, as did several foundations and corporate donors. Rotary International launched an appeal to all its members worldwide, asking for donations to the Movement's projects. The response was overwhelming.
 - b) Donations for victims of anti-personnel mines increased steadily throughout the year. The Swiss Rotarians and several districts in Germany continued to provide substantial support, and the UEFA* maintained its considerable backing for the prosthetic/orthotic centres in Georgia and Uganda. In addition, a new partnership was launched with Soroptimist International.
 - c) The ICRC approached corporate sponsors for coverage of the costs of the major event held on 12 August 1999¹ to mark the 50th anniversary of the Geneva Conventions.

Communicating with the donors

The ICRC spared no effort throughout the year to inform donors about topics of general or more immediate interest, involving operational representatives from all levels. Some of the steps taken are listed below.

- ICRC staff had direct contacts and networked extensively with the organization's donor community. Representatives of the Permanent Missions in Geneva were briefed in 11 meetings held at ICRC headquarters on specific country operations, developments in the financial situation and budgets for 2000. Regular contact was maintained with governments and National Societies, not only in Geneva, but also in the respective capitals and increasingly in the course of donor visits to ICRC field operations.
- Although the ICRC was not part of the CAP* developed by OCHA,* it made sure that its objectives in the field were in line with those of United Nations agencies and NGOs working in the humanitarian sphere. The ICRC also participated in the global launch of the UN Consolidated Inter-Agency Appeals in Geneva on 23 and 24 November, presenting the donor community – one month ahead of the launch date – with a summary of the 2000 Emergency Appeals and a plan of action for countries also covered by the CAP.
- The US Permanent Mission in Geneva hosted an informal meeting on 16 April between ICRC representatives at the highest working level and the ICRC's donor support group. The main topic of discussion was the findings of two teams of donor representatives who conducted a review of ICRC programmes in Georgia and Colombia between 9 and 15 April. The following were identified as areas in

* UEFA: Union of European Football Associations

¹ See pp. 348-350.

* CAP: Consolidated Appeal Procedure

* OCHA: United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs

OPERATIONAL SUPPORT SERVICES

which donors might provide greater support for the ICRC's work: resolving the relief-to-development gap, thereby enabling the ICRC to pull out of longer-term assistance programmes; making representations on the ICRC's behalf for access to detainees or conflict areas; encouraging greater coordination/cooperation of National Societies with the ICRC; cutting down on earmarking and the demand for separate reporting; and using the same evaluation methods as the ICRC. The ICRC, for its part, expressed appreciation for the review, which had been particularly helpful in calling attention to forgotten conflicts, recognizing the efforts of ICRC staff in the field and providing management suggestions to headquarters. It was decided to continue this exchange of views on a regular basis, once a year.

- In June the ICRC convened the third Humanitarian Forum at the Wolfsberg Centre, Switzerland, with a view to fostering dialogue between high-level humanitarian and political players by encouraging an informal exchange of views and a spirit of openness. The central theme this year was the protection of the victims of armed conflicts against the backdrop of the 50th anniversary of the Geneva Conventions, discussed from three standpoints: protection as seen by the victims, by humanitarian organizations, and by governments. The Forum was attended by approximately 60 representatives of major humanitarian organizations – both United Nations agencies (UNHCR, UNICEF, the WFP,* DPKO*) and NGOs (ICVA,* InterAction, the Steering Committee for Humanitarian Response) – and senior officials responsible for humanitarian affairs in the main donor governments. Officials from various regional organizations (NATO, the Council of Europe, the European Commission) also participated, as did a number of individuals chosen for their specific area of expertise. The discussions were again informal, promoting greater freedom of expression than is usual in such fora.
- The Federation and the ICRC again organized two week-long meetings in Geneva for about 30 representatives of National Societies playing an active role in international humanitarian operations. The meetings focused on strengthening dialogue between the Movement's components, in particular on management issues or matters directly related to field operations (e. g., human resources, evaluation of programme impact).
- A vigorous effort was made to keep donors regularly and adequately informed of the activities, thinking and concerns of the ICRC by means of a consolidated, standard reporting system. To that end, the Emergency Appeals (and consequently also the special and budget extension appeals) were restructured in the course of the year so as to reflect the ICRC's long- and medium-term objectives in a results-oriented approach. Specific information was provided in one special appeal concerning assistance for landmine victims and in seven budget extension appeals (one each for the Republic of the Congo, Iraq, Eritrea-Ethiopia, Angola and Colombia, and two for Indonesia). In addition to the two Federation/ICRC Integrated Appeals in response to the Balkans crisis, in September the ICRC sent donors a Renewed Emergency Appeal to supplement

* WFP: World Food Programme

* DPKO: UN Department of Peace-keeping Operations

* ICVA: International Council of Voluntary Agencies

OPERATIONAL SUPPORT SERVICES

the 1999 Emergency Appeals launched earlier in the year. Interim information on all ICRC field activities was provided in Quarterly Reports, which were supplemented by about 50 updates that kept the donors abreast of developments in rapidly evolving emergency situations and of other developments in the humanitarian field. Finally, three Special Reports – “Uganda”, “Mine action” and “Iraq – a decade of sanctions” – were produced to broaden understanding of the ICRC approach in specific geographical contexts and areas of activity.

FINANCE

The new financial accounting system, which uses activity-based costing, was introduced at the beginning of 1999 at headquarters and in the field. It constitutes an important step in the two- to three-year process of setting up an integrated management system for support processes based on enterprise resource planning.

The new system will ultimately comply with international accounting standards. Because it requires most staff to provide direct information on actual work done, the activity-based costing approach calls for fundamental changes in staff habits, and its potential has yet to be fully realized. In 1999, financial data from the traditional financial accounting system and activity-based information from staff were fed into the new system but not yet exploited in the form of financial reporting. Once the new system is fully operational, it will provide quality information for the assessment, monitoring, evaluation and planning of activities throughout the ICRC and for internal and external reporting.

During the planning process carried out in autumn 1999 for the year 2000, budgets were more closely linked to objectives in terms of planned results and operational outcome. This is another move towards implementing a fully integrated management and financial cycle of planning, implementation and evaluation.

By the end of 1999, difficulties in the implementation of this ambitious project had been identified and a plan for further improvement and development in 2000 drawn up. The information, training and changes required to consolidate the system and produce the desired figures and tables were on the agenda for 2000 and beyond.

The war in the Balkans and the decision to launch an integrated Red Cross/Red Crescent operation in the region put a certain amount of strain on the new system. The Integrated Appeal had an impact on the financial cycle, and the ICRC consequently had to adjust its approach to the management of higher levels of financial risk and investment. The experience it gained would be used in 2000 to adapt and develop the management indicators and ratios crucial to monitoring fluctuations and controlling risks.

With the introduction of the new financial system at the beginning of 1999, the presentation of accounts and financial tables underwent further changes. Significant progress was made in the gradual realignment of the ICRC's financial statements with international accounting standards.

The 1999 financial year

The year under review was an exceptional one marked by several events and trends which had unprecedented effects on the financial cycle. Operational planning for 1999, decided at the end of the previous year, resulted in the launch of an initial emergency appeal for field operations amounting to 660.2 million Swiss francs. Unforeseen developments in many regions of the world prompted 11 revisions of the budget, bringing it to an all-time high of 911.7 million by the end of 1999. The largest budget extensions were required for the crisis in the Balkans, covering Albania, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia; this brought the appeal for the region, initially 34 million, to 194.5 million Swiss francs. The budget for Angola rose by 42 million during the year to 54.1 million. Considerable upward revisions were also required for the Jakarta regional delegation (events in East Timor), the international conflict between Eritrea and Ethiopia, the northern Caucasus and the Republic of the Congo. Overall field expenditure surged to 713.1 million Swiss francs, a rise of 45 % over the previous year.

The increase in expenditure generated by the Balkans crisis in spring was followed by an equivalent rise in contributions through the summer into early autumn. Generous support from donors in the form of contributions and pledges resulted in an excess of income for field operations of 7.6 million francs by the end of the year. However, this favourable outcome can be attributed more to the number and amount of pledges than to actual disbursement of funds during 1999. With pledged contributions now entered as income and accounts receivable, this led to the paradoxical situation of a positive result accompanied by a very tight cash position, especially towards the end of the year and continuing well into the first months of 2000. Outstanding pledges amounted to 133.3 million Swiss francs at the end of 1999.

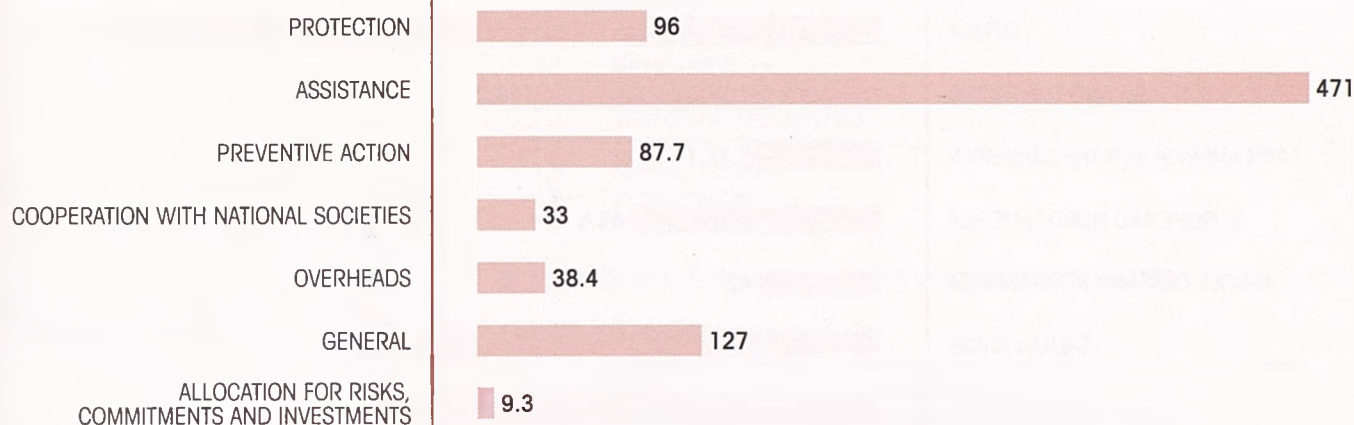
Despite the spectacular growth in field operations, the initial headquarters budget increased only by a modest 1.78 % to 142.8 million (allocations for risks, commitments and investments included). Headquarters expenditure (not including risks, commitments and investments) rose to 140.1 million as compared with 134.2 million the year before. This was mainly a direct effect of the sharp increase in field operations, which meant a heavier workload for support services in Geneva. The headquarters staff structure was also strengthened to allow implementation of strategic decisions under the Avenir project, with the aim of upgrading management methods and enhancing the ICRC's capacity to remain in phase with the changing environment. Part of the increase in expenditure is due to the onset of major depreciation of IT investments made in recent years.

The changes in the accounting policy in 1999 had notable effects on the statement of income and the balance sheet. Fixed assets in the field and inventories at the main distribution sites, which up to 1998 were recorded as expenditure, are now valued as assets. Also from 1999, all contributions pledged but not received by 31 December are included as income and accounts receivable in the balance sheet. On the liability side, the presentation and definition of reserves have been reviewed and substantially changed.

FINANCIAL TABLES

EXPENDITURE ACCORDING TO TYPE OF ACTIVITY IN 1999

including contributions in kind and services (in millions of Swiss francs)

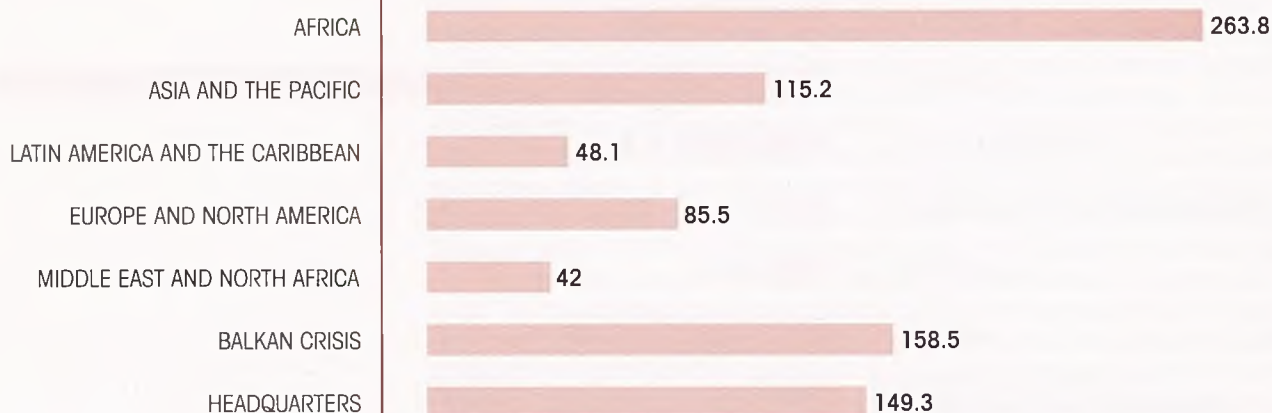


TOTAL: Sfr 862.4 MILLION

FINANCIAL TABLES

EXPENDITURE BY REGION IN 1999

including contributions in kind and services (in millions of Swiss francs)



TOTAL: Sfr 862.4 MILLION

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1. BALANCE SHEET AS AT DECEMBER 31, 1999

(in Swiss francs '000)

	Notes	1999	1998 restated	1998 approved
ASSETS				
Current Assets				
Cash and cash equivalents	4.3.1	85,661	97,924	97,937
Securities	4.3.2	29,847	27,480	23,676
Accounts receivable	4.3.3	148,682	72,926	8,735
Inventories	4.3.4	14,867	14,537	4,582
Prepaid expenses		5,373	3,689	38,706
		284,430	216,556	173,636
Operations with temporary deficit financing	4.3.5	18,701	3,538	32,087
Financial assets	4.3.6	0	31,359	31,359
Property, equipment, software	4.3.7	87,407	75,609	51,192
Total assets		390,538	327,062	288,274
Trust fund with banks		87	731	731
LIABILITIES AND RESERVES				
Short-term liabilities				
Bank debts		15,508	75	75
Accounts payable	4.3.8	102,939	69,654	71,401
Accrued expenses and deferred income	4.3.9	16,845	17,011	14,400
		135,292	86,740	85,876
Long-term liabilities	4.3.10	10,122	8,300	8,300
Donors' restricted contributions	4.3.11	26,307	30,079	30,079
Reserves				
Restricted through designation by Assembly	4.3.12			
Operational risks reserve		104,323	92,323	92,323
Assets reserve		82,871	82,006	47,686
Financial risks reserve		9,881	5,604	2,000
Human resources reserve		5,757	6,146	6,146
Specific projects reserve		1,585	1,567	1,567
		204,417	187,646	149,722
Unrestricted				
General reserve		12,500	12,500	12,500
Balance at beginning of year		1,797	1,797	1,797
Excess of income over expenses		103	0	0
		14,400	14,297	14,297
Total liabilities and reserves		390,538	327,062	288,274
Trust funds - creditors		87	731	731

2. STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURES IN 1999

(In Swiss francs '000)

	Notes	1999	1998
Contributions		835,979	625,615
Operational expenditures			
Staff-related costs	4.3.13	-280,574	-272,836
Mission costs		-26,144	-23,833
Premises and equipment		-58,824	-48,857
Transport		-81,776	-52,223
Assistance to victims		-240,269	-111,897
Financial assistance to National Societies and third parties		-39,576	-29,165
General supplies and services		-69,073	-54,008
Depreciation		-18,482	-6,446
Change of provision for doubtful accounts		-9,260	0
Total		-823,978	-599,265
Net result for operational activities		12,001	26,350
Other income			
Contributed assets		2,716	0
Financial income and re-invoiced costs		7,548	7,428
Exchange gains		8,008	53
Prior period income		482	952
Other		2,788	5,931
Total		21,542	14,364
Other expenditures			
Exchange loss		-4,684	-1,005
Prior period expenditure		-153	-592
Other		-2,221	-3,858
Total		-7,058	-5,455
Net result of non-operational activities		14,484	8,909
Surplus		26,485	35,259
Use of restricted reserves designated by Assembly		1,618	3,738
Allocation to restricted reserves designated by Assembly		-18,389	-16,393
Decrease/increase of operations with temporary deficit financing	4.3.5	-13,386	-13,298
Decrease/increase of donors' restricted contributions for specific operations		3,772	-9,557
Adjustments of operations with temporary deficit financing/donors' restricted contributions		3	251
Total		-26,382	-35,259
Excess of income over expenses		103	0

3. CASH FLOW STATEMENT FOR 1999

(in Swiss francs '000)

	Notes	1999	1998
Cash flows from operating activities			
Excess of income over expenses		103	0
Depreciation of property, equipment, intangibles	4.3.7	18,482	6,446
Change of provision for doubtful accounts	4.3.3	9,260	0
Gains on disposal of fixed assets, net		-974	0
Contributed assets	4.3.7	-2,716	0
Other income and expenditure, net		0	-355
Allocation/use of restricted reserves through designation by Assembly	4.3.12	16,771	12,656
<i>Surplus before changing in working capital</i>		<i>40,926</i>	<i>18,747</i>
Increase/decrease of current assets		-89,397	13,927
Increase/decrease of short term liabilities		33,119	-6,061
Increase/decrease of operations with temporary deficit financing	4.3.5	-15,163	13,298
Decrease/increase of donors' restricted contributions for specific operations	4.3.11	-3,772	9,557
		-34,287	49,468
Cash flow from investing activities			
Investment in fixed assets	4.3.7	-33,795	-18,170
Proceeds on disposal of fixed assets	4.3.7	7,205	289
Investment in financial assets		0	-63
Proceeds on disposal of financial assets	4.3.6	31,359	0
		4,769	-17,944
Cash flow from financing activities			
Reimbursement of long-term liabilities		-200	-200
Increase of long-term loan for new training center		2,022	0
		1,822	-200
Net variation of cash and bank deposits		-27,696	31,324
Cash and cash equivalents, net at beginning of year		97,849	66,525
Cash and cash equivalents, net at end of year		70,153	97,849

Figures for 1999 are after re-statement and re-classification.

4. NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AS AT DECEMBER 31, 1999

4.1 Activities

The International Committee of the Red Cross, founded in Geneva in 1863 and formally recognized in the Geneva Conventions and by the International Conferences of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, is an independent humanitarian organization having a status of its own.

The ICRC's principal tasks consist of:

- in connection with internal strife, international and non-international armed conflict, and their aftermath:
 - activities for persons deprived of their freedom;
 - protection and relief (in the form of medical supplies, drinking water, food and shelter) for the civilian population;
 - restoration of family links;
- at all times:
 - development of and respect for international humanitarian law;
 - promotion and dissemination of humanitarian law and of the principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement;
 - humanitarian diplomacy.

These financial statements include activities of the Geneva headquarters, and all ICRC delegations.

4.2 Significant accounting policies

4.2.1 Basis of presentation

The financial statements are presented in accordance with Swiss law and the statutes of the ICRC.

For the year ended December 31, 1999, the ICRC has prepared its financial statements in order to realign them more closely to International Accounting Standards (IAS).

4.2.2 Changes in accounting policies

The main changes in accounting policies concern fixed assets and inventories at the principal distribution centers that were recorded up to 1998 directly as expenditures and are now recognized as assets. The changes were made by re-stating the balance sheet at December 31, 1998 to include the following increases in asset values:

	Sfr '000
Inventories	9,902
Fixed assets	24,418

Another change in 1999 was to include in income and accounts receivable all contributions pledged but not received less a provision for collection risks. Assets at December 31, 1998 were re-classified to include in accounts receivable contributions pledged at that date and collected by January 14, 1999 and operations with temporary deficit financing covered by outstanding pledged contributions.

The changes of the accounting policies led to the renaming of some balance sheet captions and re-classification of comparative figures for 1998.

4. NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AS AT DECEMBER 31, 1999

4.2.3 Cash and cash equivalents

The ICRC considers cash on hand, amounts due from banks and short-term time deposits with banks to be cash or cash equivalents.

4.2.4 Securities

Investment securities are recorded at their purchase value in the case of shares, and at par in the case of bonds.

4.2.5 Accounts receivable

The recognition of the main positions of the receivables is as follows:

- Pledges at the moment of a written confirmation
- Commercial and National Societies in the moment when the service or basic expenditure is fulfilled or the ownership is transferred

A provision on the outstanding amounts has been created to cover the estimated risks.

4.2.6 Inventories

Inventories held at headquarters, and the principal regional distribution centers are considered as uncommitted stocks and are recorded at cost. Expenditures are recognized at the moment of the delivery or consumption of these stocks. Inventories held at other locations are considered as committed and are included in expenditures.

4.2.7 Operations with temporary deficit financing

This position relates to expenditures in the field financial structure which are not covered by contributions already received or pledged.

4.2.8 Property, equipment, software

Assets are capitalized when they are used exclusively for the ICRC and when the following limits are reached for individual asset amounts:

- | | |
|--------------------------|-------------|
| • Real estate | all |
| • Equipment and vehicles | Sfr 10,000 |
| • Software | Sfr 500,000 |

Applicable straight-line depreciation periods:

	in Switzerland	other countries
Real estate	50 years	10 years
Equipment and vehicles	5 years	5 years
Software	5 years	5 years

4. NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AS AT DECEMBER 31, 1999

4.2.9 Donors' restricted contributions

Some contributions received by the ICRC are earmarked for specific usage. At the end of the financial year, any such funds which have not yet been spent are recorded under this heading. In case the funds cannot be used, the ICRC either obtains approval for a reallocation of those funds for a different usage or reimburses them to the donor.

4.2.10 Restricted reserves designated by the Assembly

Operational risks reserve

This concerns reserves relating to insufficient operational funding, equipment insured by delegations and commercial disputes. The reserve for insufficient operational funding is estimated at an average of two and a half months of cash expenditures of the last five years.

Assets reserve

The ICRC sets aside funds for capital expenditure on real estate and equipment, in order to be able to make investments essential for its operations regardless of short-term financial fluctuations. This reserve includes the revaluation and restatement of fixed assets and inventory of a total value of Sfr 34.3 millions.

Financial risk reserve

This covers the risks of exchange rate and price fluctuations in securities.

Human resources reserves

This covers staff commitments of the ICRC's liabilities under the Collective Staff Agreement.

Specific projects reserves

Allocations for specific projects to be undertaken are made in anticipation of the events taking place; such as the International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, and studies concerning the Red Cross Emblem.

4.2.11 Recognition of contributions

Pledges are recognized on receipt of a written document from all the donors.

Contributions that are based on contracts for specific projects (e.g. European Union, projects delegated to National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies) are recognized in the moment when the expenditure is incurred.

The following contributions are recognized upon receipt of the cash collection:

- Private sources, associations and companies
- Legacies
- Gifts

Contributions in kind (goods) and in services (in the form of means of transport or rent) are recognized on receipt of the goods or service. For each contribution received in kind or in services, an equal amount is entered under both income and expenditure.

Contributions in kind for fixed assets are recorded under other income with an offsetting amount in fixed assets. The ICRC considers those contributions not together with the other kind contributions, as no equal expenditures are recorded in the accounts. Depreciation of such assets is in operational expenditures in the same manner as for purchased fixed assets.

The value of contributions in kind is determined by the donor's estimation of the value of the goods, allowing for the cost of transport to the final destination. The market value may not be exceeded.

4. NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AS AT DECEMBER 31, 1999

The value of service contributions in the form of staff is estimated by determining the real cost that would have been incurred had the contribution not been made. In the case of staff seconded to the ICRC, the estimated value consists of the salary plus the social security and insurance contributions paid by the ICRC for the position concerned. From this value all personnel costs paid by the ICRC to the persons concerned have been deducted to give the value of service recorded.

4.2.12 Translation of foreign currencies

Monetary assets and liabilities are translated into Swiss francs at the rate applicable at the year-end, except for securities denominated in foreign currencies, which are converted at the historical rate of exchange. Income and expenditure statement items are converted at monthly exchange rates and any differences included under other income and expenditure. The net result of the translation has been attributed to the financial risks reserve.

The principal rates of exchange are shown below:

	Closing rate of exchange		Average rate of exchange	
	1999	1998	1999	1998
USD	1.5870	1.3720	1.4968	1.4547
DEM	0.8199	0.8257	0.8187	0.8255
GBP	2.5600	2.2700	2.4150	2.4050
FRF	0.2445	0.2462	0.2441	0.2470
EUR	1.6035	1.6200	1.6012	1.6250

4.3 Additional details relating to the financial statements

This section provides a breakdown of the main items on the balance sheet. All figures are in Swiss francs '000 (Sfr) and represent a consolidation of the headquarters and field financial data. The 1998 figures represent the restated status.

4.3.1 Cash and cash equivalents

	1999	1998 restated
Cash and bank accounts	44,900	15,756
Time deposits	40,761	82,168
	85,661	97,924

4.3.2 Securities

Securities	25,978	21,075
Other current assets	3,869	6,405
	29,847	27,480
<i>Market value of securities</i>	<i>36,039</i>	<i>36,787</i>

4. NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AS AT DECEMBER 31, 1999

4.3.3 Accounts receivable

Pledges	133,332	60,676
Commercial	5,535	3,099
Governments	33	0
National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, organizations, foundations and funds	11,941	4,621
Withholding taxes	134	264
Guarantee deposits	841	705
Social security and insurance contributions	1,715	1,786
Suppliers' advance payments	1,416	436
Advance payments to expatriates on mission	3,195	1,539
Provision for doubtful accounts	-9,460	-200
	148,682	72,926

As 1999 is the first year with recording of pledges (promised contributions), the provision for doubtful accounts has been increased by Sfr 9,260 from Sfr 200 to Sfr 9,460.

4.3.4 Inventories

Inventories	16,867	16,537
Provision for depreciation of medical supplies	-2,000	-2,000
	14,867	14,537
Reclassified by category of goods as follows:		
– Relief	4,641	6,477
– Medical and prosthetic/orthotic	4,875	3,096
– Water and sanitation	3,495	4,146
– Other	3,856	2,818
	16,867	16,537

4.3.5 Operations with temporary deficit financing

Non-earmarked balances brought forward (country level)	17,529	3,538
Earmarked balances brought forward (country level)	1,172	0
	18,701	3,538

The increase of balances by Sfr 15,163 in 1999 has been offset by the reclassification of pledges received in 1999 to cover operations with temporary deficit financing at December 31, 1998 of Sfr 28,549 to give an overall net decrease for 1999 amounting to Sfr 13,386.

Operations are considered as a deficit financing when the contributions do not cover the expenditures. As long as contributions are remitted for a specific operation at the country level they are defined as non-earmarked. Below this level they are considered as earmarked.

4.3.6 Financial assets

	0	31,359
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The deposit has been reimbursed on September 30, 1999

4. NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AS AT DECEMBER 31, 1999

4.3.7 Property, equipment, software

	Land and buildings	Equipment and vehicles	Software	Work in progress	Total
Historical acquisition costs					
Balance at December 31, 1998	42,207	26,771		17,085	86,063
Restatement	1,352	76,652			78,004
Additions	387	24,907		11,217	36,511
Disposals		-19,299			-19,299
Transfers			12,640	-12,640	0
Balance at December 31, 1999	43,946	109,031	12,640	15,662	181,279
Accumulated depreciation and value adjustments					
Balance at December 31, 1998	-9,503	-25,369			-34,872
Restatement	-1,307	-52,279			-53,586
Charge for the year	-1,319	-12,399	-4,764		-18,482
Disposals		13,068			13,068
Balance at December 31, 1999	-12,129	-76,979	-4,764	0	-93,872
Net book value as at December 31, 1998 (after restatement)	32,749	25,775	0	17,085	75,609
Net book value as at December 31, 1999	31,817	32,052	7,876	15,662	87,407

Based on the changing of the accounting policies the worldwide fixed assets have been restated at standard costs and accumulated depreciation has been taken into account.

One of the buildings at the headquarters in Geneva is subject to a mortgage note tendered as collateral for the respective building.

4.3.8 Accounts payable

Governments	10,745	9,087
National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, organizations, foundations and funds	1,260	500
Suppliers	29,831	11,117
Social security and insurance contributions	38,014	25,390
Staff vacation accrual	21,686	22,736
Sundry items	1,403	824
	102,939	69,654

4.3.9 Accrued expenses and deferred income

Accrued expenses	16,827	16,512
Prepaid contributions	18	499
	16,845	17,011

4.3.10 Long-term liabilities

	10,122	8,300
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This position comprises two loans.

One loan of Sfr 8,100 relates to one building at the headquarters in Geneva. Interest amounted to Sfr 425 in 1999 (Sfr 436 in 1998).

The other loan is interest free and has been granted for the new training center in Geneva.

4. NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AS AT DECEMBER 31, 1999

4.3.11 Donors' restricted contributions

Non-earmarked balances brought forward (country level)	20,720	16,086
Earmarked balances brought forward (country level)	5,587	13,993
	26,307	30,079

Contributions are defined as non-earmarked as long as they are remitted for a specific operation at the country level. Below this level they are considered as earmarked.

Donors' restricted contributions that could not cover specific expenditures are carried forward to the following year. In case the ICRC meets an overfinancing for a specific operation, another operation can be suggested to the donor. In case of overfinancing the donor may also ask for a reimbursement of the donation. In 1999 contributions of Sfr 405 were reimbursed (Sfr 2 in 1998).

4.3.12 Restricted reserves through designation by the Assembly

	Operational risk reserve	Assets reserve	Financial risk reserve	Human resources reserve	Specific projects reserve	Total
Balance as at December 31, 1998	92,323	47,686	5,604	6,146	1,567	153,326
Restatement of assets and inventories		34,320				34,320
Use/release during 1999		-135		-1,251	-232	-1,618
Allocations 1999	12,000	1,000	4,277	862	250	18,389
Balance as at December 1999	104,323	82,871	9,881	5,757	1,585	204,417

The operational risk reserve contains a reserve for insufficient operational funding, estimated at an average of two and a half months of cash expenditures over the last five years. The theoretical level should be Sfr 106.2 million; at the end of 1999 it reached Sfr 94 million.

4.3.13 Staff-related costs

	1999	1998
Wages and salaries	206,576	196,102
Social Insurances and social benefits	53,458	56,318
	260,034	252,420

In accordance with Swiss law, pension contributions for staff working at headquarters or in the field and hired in Geneva are paid into an independent trust.

Fondation Avenir, established at the ICRC's initiative, facilitates training or career moves for staff working at the headquarters or in the field and hired in Geneva under an open-ended contract. In 1999 the contribution to that foundation was Sfr 5,594.

4. NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AS AT DECEMBER 31, 1999

4.3.14 Operational expenditure by cash/kind/service

	Cash	Kind	Service	Total
Staff-related costs	-260,034		-20,540	-280,574
Mission costs	-26,144			-26,144
Premises and equipment	-58,692		-132	-58,824
Transport	-81,740		-36	-81,776
Assistance to victims	-175,266	-65,003		-240,269
Financial assistance to National Societies and third parties	-39,576			-39,576
General supplies and services	-69,073			-69,073
Depreciation	-18,482			-18,482
Change of provision for doubtful accounts	-9,260			-9,260
Total	-738,267	-65,003	-20,708	-823,978

4.4 Additional notes

4.4.1 Taxes

The ICRC is exempt from taxes in Switzerland and most countries in which its delegations are based.

4.4.2 Financial instruments

Forward transactions are effected occasionally for contract periods not extending beyond the current month and solely for the purpose of hedging exchange rate risks.

AUDITORS' LETTER



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Report of the external auditors to the Assembly of the members of

The International Committee of the Red Cross

As external auditors of your association, we have examined the accounting records and the financial statements (balance sheet, statement of income and expenses, cash flow statement and notes) of the International Committee of the Red Cross for the year ended December 31, 1999.

These financial statements are the responsibility of the Committee. Our responsibility is to express an opinion of these financial statements based on our audit. We confirm that we meet the legal requirements concerning professional qualification and independence.

Our audit was conducted in accordance with auditing standards promulgated by the profession, which require that an audit be planned and performed to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement. We have examined on a test basis evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. We have also assessed the accounting principles used, significant estimates made and the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the accounting records and financial statements comply with the law and the articles of incorporation.

We recommend that the financial statements submitted to you be approved.

KPMG Fides Peat

David J W Colledge
Chartered Accountant

Stéphane Gard
Expert-comptable diplômé

Geneva, June 8, 2000

Enclosures :

Financial statements (balance sheet, statement of income and expenses, cash flow statement and notes)



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APPEAL AND BUDGET

(In Swiss francs '000)

	ASSEMBLY, PRESIDENCY & MANAGEMENT CONTROL		DIRECTORATE		OPERATIONS		OPERATIONS					
	Appeal	Final budget	Appeal	Final budget	Appeal	Final budget	AFRICA		ASIA & THE PACIFIC		LATIN AMERICA & THE CARIBBEAN	
							Appeal	Final budget	Appeal	Final budget	Appeal	Final budget
PROTECTION												
Protection (general)	-	-	-	114	1,279	1,300	1,002	1,117	203	208	203	208
Respect for detainees	-	-	-	-	127	58	278	310	567	531	493	570
Restoring family links	-	-	-	-	127	58	202	220	299	294	274	306
Missing persons	-	-	-	-	127	58	-	-	-	-	-	-
Respect for civilians	-	-	-	-	127	58	203	220	613	570	728	843
	-	-	-	114	1,787	1,532	1,685	1,867	1,682	1,603	1,698	1,927
ASSISTANCE												
Assistance (general)	79	-	79	703	2,646	3,788	6,156	5,528	1,288	1,522	1,042	1,082
Health services	-	-	-	-	79	170	721	655	469	165	162	82
Orthotics & prosthetics	-	-	-	-	-	164	144	131	133	33	18	16
Engineering	-	-	-	-	-	173	865	787	216	197	108	98
Economic security	-	-	-	-	-	98	865	787	408	197	179	98
	79	-	79	703	2,725	4,393	8,751	7,888	2,514	2,114	1,509	1,376
PREVENTIVE ACTION												
Preventive action (general)	-	81	-	271	-	81	160	153	-	-	-	-
Development of IHL	101	41	-	320	275	138	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dissemination and information	750	739	992	465	2,196	1,078	725	610	563	598	322	353
Implementation of IHL	1,044	445	51	39	363	237	247	421	467	492	491	555
Mines and other weapons	51	-	50	231	-	23	98	100	-	47	-	23
	1,946	1,306	1,093	1,326	2,834	1,557	1,230	1,284	1,030	1,137	813	931
COOPERATION WITH NATIONAL SOCIETIES	-	-	-	-	127	489	760	764	305	312	284	310
GENERAL	5,093	5,492	4,463	7,265	9,876	10,273	7,340	6,930	3,827	3,492	2,361	2,095
Allocation for risks, commitments and investments	-	-	-	-	3,000	3,000	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	7,118	6,798	5,635	9,408	20,349	21,244	19,766	18,733	9,358	8,658	6,665	6,639

* Amounts have been corrected as figures in appeal document for Communication and Law have been inverted.

FINANCIAL STRUCTURE IN 1999

EUROPE & NORTH AMERICA		MIDDLE EAST & NORTH AFRICA		LAW		COMMUNICATION		HUMAN RESOURCES		FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION		EXTERNAL RESOURCES		GRAND TOTAL	
Appeal	Final budget	Appeal	Final budget	Appeal	Final budget	Appeal*	Final budget	Appeal	Final budget	Appeal	Final budget	Appeal	Final budget	Appeal	Final budget
822	794	897	986		110	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4,406	4,837
255	267	279	310		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1999	2,046
177	191	177	191		149	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,256	1,409
101	156	101	156		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	329	370
177	184	177	184		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,025	2,059
1,532	1,592	1,631	1,827	-	259	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10,015	10,721
1,675	1,150	1,129	906		-	-	-	431	-	18	-	192	169	14,735	14,848
360	328	90	82		-	-	-	575	-	90	-	-	-	2,546	1,482
72	65	18	16		-	-	-	36	-	18	-	-	-	439	425
433	393	108	99		-	-	-	295	-	108	-	-	-	2,133	1,747
433	393	108	98		-	-	-	296	-	108	-	-	-	2,397	1,671
2,973	2,329	1,453	1,201	-	-	-	-	1,633	-	342	-	192	169	22,250	20,173
929	631	434	505	1,051	1,185	285	1,224	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,859	4,131
-	-	-	-	350	1,636	2,569	-	286	-	-	-	-	-	3,581	2,135
528	551	269	281	1,950	2,059	12,352	13,540	294	146	775	414	514	459	22,230	21,293
419	516	247	409	3,577	5,837	1,243	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8,149	8,951
49	72	-	23	51	435	669	62	-	-	-	-	203	151	1,171	1,167
1,925	1,770	950	1,218	6,979	11,152	17,118	14,826	580	146	775	414	717	610	37,990	37,677
913	711	290	317	350	798	1,167	384	36	-	18	-	155	262	4,405	4,347
4,438	4,114	2,520	2,246	2,003	1,983	1,413	1,057	3,830	4,487	4,672	6,570	9,013	9,058	60,849	65,062
					50			1,000	1,000	750	750			4,750	4,800
11,781	10,516	6,844	6,809	9,332	14,242	19,698	16,267	7,079	5,633	6,557	7,734	10,077	10,099	140,259	142,780

EXPENDITURES

(In Swiss francs '000)

	ASSEMBLY, PRESIDENCY & MANAGEMENT CONTROL	DIRECTORATE	OPERATIONS	OPERATIONS		
				AFRICA	ASIA & THE PACIFIC	LATIN AMERICA & THE CARIBBEAN
PROTECTION						
Protection (general)	—	4	2,374	286	308	69
Respect for detainees	—	—	436	639	106	155
Restoring family links	—	—	380	263	47	15
Missing persons	—	1	39	—	1	2
Respect for civilians	—	—	147	39	20	66
	—	5	3,376	1,227	482	307
ASSISTANCE						
Assistance (general)	1	437	6,965	2,008	931	178
Health services	—	76	3,325	681	397	24
Orthotics & prosthetics	—	—	447	20	41	1
Engineering	—	—	832	176	106	23
Economic security	—	—	893	149	141	45
	1	513	12,462	3,034	1,616	271
PREVENTIVE ACTION						
Preventive action (general)	3	98	66	7	6	8
Development of IHL	7	14	—	2	—	—
Dissemination and information	27	1,185	608	472	410	203
Implementation of IHL	6	—	16	233	186	132
Mines and other weapons	—	315	5	—	6	1
	43	1,612	695	714	608	344
COOPERATION WITH NATIONAL SOCIETIES	110	12	52	212	149	99
GENERAL	5,831	9,291	9,489	7,620	4,110	2,463
TOTAL	5,985	11,433	26,074	12,807	6,965	3,484
Allocation for risks, commitments and investments						
Change of provision for doubtful accounts						
TOTAL	—	—	—	—	—	—

FINANCIAL STRUCTURE IN 1999

	EUROPE & NORTH AMERICA	MIDDLE EAST & NORTH AFRICA	LAW	COMMUNICATION	RESOURCES			GRAND TOTAL
					HUMAN RESOURCES	FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION	EXTERNAL RESOURCES	
	320	359	475	-	2	-	-	4,197
	195	318	-	-	1	-	-	1,850
	596	63	-	-	-	-	-	1,364
	185	23	-	-	-	-	-	251
	47	30	-	-	-	-	-	349
	1,343	793	475	-	3	-	-	8,011
	1,998	273	-	-	20	-	5	12,816
	195	130	-	-	18	1	-	4,847
	15	5	-	-	-	-	-	529
	178	66	-	-	17	1	-	1,399
	252	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,480
	2,638	474	-	-	55	2	5	21,071
	22	16	3,516	-	18	1	1	3,762
	22	5	1,712	1	2	-	-	1,765
	821	136	3,712	14,481	16	3	22	22,096
	263	120	2,211	112	1	-	-	3,280
	47	4	1,213	1	-	-	27	1,619
	1,175	281	12,364	14,595	37	4	50	32,522
	261	38	1,463	2	2	-	20	2,420
	5,901	2,991	1,895	1,868	11,481	5,894	7,204	76,038
	11,318	4,577	16,197	16,465	11,578	5,900	7,279	140,062
								9,260
	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	149,322

6. FIELD EXPENDITURE

Including delegated projects
(In Swiss francs '000)

	BUDGET			EXPENDITURE (Cash -				
	Initial (Emergency Appeal)	Amendment	Final	Protection	Assistance	Preventive Action	Cooperation with National Societies	Overheads*
Africa								
Angola	12,169	41,963	54,132	1,280	37,207	786	8	2,363
Burundi	7,896	—	7,896	1,210	2,234	138	7	224
Democratic Republic of the Congo	31,647	—	31,647	5,687	18,506	706	1,508	1,615
The Republic of the Congo	3,061	9,194	12,255	1,062	7,811	277	21	583
Eritrea & Ethiopia International Conflict	16,828	12,509	29,337	4,169	14,607	839	370	1,269
Liberia	1,145	—	1,145	338	357	517	42	92
Rwanda	56,136	—	56,136	11,244	19,339	1,384	35	2,414
Sierra Leone	28,124	(19,118)	9,006	539	5,562	285	491	477
Somalia	21,512	—	21,512	1,262	16,080	676	420	1,170
Sudan	59,198	—	59,198	1,139	34,225	562	1,508	2,445
Uganda	23,210	—	23,210	1,154	11,116	593	1,086	873
Abidjan Regional Delegation	4,268	—	4,268	445	210	979	454	261
Dakar Regional Delegation	7,265	—	7,265	363	3,253	778	491	356
Harare Regional Delegation	2,356	—	2,356	201	73	507	531	107
Lagos Regional Delegation	2,235	—	2,235	45	360	1,154	549	155
Nairobi Regional Delegation	10,008	—	10,008	980	2,703	1,851	1,213	540
Pretoria Regional Delegation	2,757	—	2,757	66	164	940	487	170
Yaoundé Regional Delegation	3,023	—	3,023	687	112	466	395	142
Contingency	25,388	—	25,388					
Total Africa	318,226	44,548	362,774	31,871	173,919	13,438	9,616	15,256
Asia and the Pacific								
Afghanistan	47,739	—	47,739	1,757	33,629	924	1,967	2,071
Cambodia	7,309	—	7,309	1,585	1,858	716	64	274
Myanmar	1,243	1,703	2,946	800	805	10	1	76
Pakistan	2,150	—	2,150	315	303	480	315	416
Sri Lanka	15,846	—	15,846	4,847	6,727	929	558	844
Tajikistan	4,449	—	4,449	18	1,955	1,370	258	239
Bangkok Regional Delegation	3,324	—	3,324	173	33	945	462	257
Jakarta Regional Delegation	6,491	33,805	40,296	2,118	19,889	1,082	1,033	1,553
Manila Regional Delegation	2,508	—	2,508	671	742	974	368	270
New Delhi Regional Delegation	8,317	918	9,235	3,721	322	1,304	1,045	485
Tashkent Regional Delegation	3,956	—	3,956	16	37	1,791	419	143
Contingency	8,839	(2,621)	6,218					
Total Asia and the Pacific	112,171	33,805	145,976	16,021	66,300	10,525	6,490	6,628
Latin America and the Caribbean								
Colombia	21,751	4,941	26,692	5,613	12,361	3,022	787	1,548
Mexico	9,177	—	9,177	391	3,249	621	940	383
Peru	6,690	—	6,690	2,741	1,535	817	194	370
Brasilia Regional Delegation	1,825	—	1,825	89	0	1,134	123	113
Buenos Aires Regional Delegation	2,002	—	2,002	42	13	1,201	179	127
Guatemala City Regional Delegation	6,573	—	6,573	193	788	2,461	1,038	348
Contingency	4,397	—	4,397					
Total Latin America and the Caribbean	52,415	4,941	57,356	9,069	17,946	9,256	3,261	2,889

* A premium of 6.5% is added to cash expenditure incurred by the field financial structure. This amount is included in the income of the headquarters financial structure, so as to partly offset the cost of headquarters' direct support for ICRC operations in the field. This procedure does not affect the overall result for the financial year.

AND INCOME IN 1999

Kind - Services)			INCOME (Cash - Kind - Services)				REPORTS OF OPERATIONS				
		Total					Surplus	Deficit			
	General	expenditure	Cash	Kind	Service	Total	financing 98	financing 98	Corrections	Surplus	Deficit
						Income	brought	brought	and	financing	financing
							forward	forward	transfers	1999	1999
	1,910	43,554	38,673	3,996	407	43,076	-	(321)	1,002	203	-
	711	4,524	4,409	-	130	4,539	-	-	(15)	-	-
	1,720	29,742	29,788	-	270	30,058	-	(2,560)	(125)	-	(2,369)
	880	10,634	9,613	451	94	10,158	-	(167)	(666)	-	(1,309)
	783	22,037	17,832	1,718	435	19,985	53	-	-	-	(1,999)
	243	1,589	1,716	-	-	1,716	-	-	1	128	-
	1,364	35,780	33,310	714	1,010	35,034	300	-	83	-	(363)
	1,004	8,358	8,627	426	155	9,208	-	(850)	-	-	-
	579	20,187	19,085	-	158	19,243	-	(298)	250	-	(992)
	2,627	42,506	37,217	361	3,186	40,764	-	(1,789)	923	-	(2,608)
	1,486	16,308	16,887	411	359	17,657	-	(2,058)	-	-	(709)
	1,246	3,595	3,407	-	-	3,407	190	-	(2)	-	-
	1,268	6,509	6,325	51	430	6,806	-	(297)	-	-	-
	482	1,901	1,832	-	-	1,832	1,010	-	-	941	-
	344	2,607	2,607	-	-	2,607	-	-	-	-	-
	1,860	9,147	8,570	65	363	8,998	149	-	-	-	-
	744	2,571	2,544	-	27	2,571	-	-	-	-	-
	487	2,289	2,289	-	-	2,289	-	-	-	-	-
	19,738	263,838	244,731	8,193	7,024	259,948	1,702	(8,340)	1,451	1,272	(10,349)
	903	41,251	38,360	726	1,672	40,758	6,086	-	1,678	7,271	-
	645	5,142	5,269	-	164	5,433	436	-	33	760	-
	349	2,041	667	-	149	816	753	-	37	-	(435)
	550	2,379	2,229	-	171	2,400	-	-	(21)	-	-
	1,361	15,266	14,228	266	1,255	15,749	-	(483)	-	-	-
	594	4,434	4,151	116	227	4,494	-	(53)	(7)	-	-
	1,213	3,083	3,052	-	31	3,083	-	-	-	-	-
	1,403	27,078	24,641	1,380	569	26,590	100	-	(33)	-	(421)
	1,003	4,028	3,777	123	128	4,028	-	-	-	-	-
	1,010	7,887	7,557	-	252	7,809	78	-	-	-	-
	147	2,553	2,946	-	19	2,965	-	(412)	-	-	-
	9,181	115,142	106,877	2,611	4,637	114,125	7,453	(948)	1,687	8,031	(856)
	2,378	25,709	23,073	28	722	23,823	-	(1,530)	-	-	(3,416)
	762	6,346	5,458	3	90	5,551	795	-	-	-	-
	504	6,161	5,675	40	-	5,715	-	-	-	-	(446)
	408	1,867	2,342	-	-	2,342	-	(475)	-	-	-
	644	2,206	2,066	98	115	2,279	-	(73)	-	-	-
	1,017	5,845	6,053	-	94	6,147	-	(175)	-	127	-
	5,713	48,134	44,667	169	1,021	45,857	795	(2,253)	-	127	(3,862)

6. FIELD EXPENDITURE

Including delegated projects
(in Swiss francs '000)

	BUDGET			EXPENDITURE (Cash -				
	Initial (emergency appeal)	Amendment	Final	Protection	Assistance	Preventive Action	Cooperation with National Societies	Overheads
Europe and North America								
Albania	2,058	(1,515)	543	57	275	39	8	14
Armenia	6,842	-	6,842	391	1,575	558	115	159
Azerbaijan	6,328	-	6,328	349	2,456	591	50	228
Bosnia-Herzegovina	25,040	-	25,040	2,911	14,810	2,583	2,176	1,403
Croatia	3,319	-	3,319	531	13	1,100	575	153
Federal Republic of Yugoslavia	30,651	(24,958)	5,693	364	5,117	135	22	203
Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	1,270	(1,074)	196	22	9	45	11	12
Georgia	18,340	-	18,340	1,308	9,795	1,464	140	740
Budapest Regional Delegation	2,019	-	2,019	13	0	874	382	90
Kyiv Regional Delegation	3,784	-	3,784	4	19	1,220	402	108
Moscow Regional Delegation	17,374	10,586	27,960	92	9,893	4,332	2,018	988
Washington Regional Delegation	1,313	-	1,313	36	1	306	47	71
Brussels	-	-	-	-	-	292	93	67
New York	2,351	-	2,351	14	-	1,078	-	134
Paris	-	-	-	35	-	313	-	41
Contingency	10,610	(10,610)	-					
Total Europe and North America	131,299	(27,571)	103,728	6,127	43,963	14,930	6,039	4,411
Middle East and North Africa								
Egypt	1,367	-	1,367	76	-	901	130	115
Iran	135	-	135	25	-	28	1	15
Iraq	14,007	7,780	21,787	2,283	11,823	391	371	964
Israel, the occupied territories and the autonomous territories	14,587	-	14,587	6,897	515	1,487	1,743	776
Jordan	1,280	-	1,280	326	-	394	46	99
Lebanon	3,661	-	3,661	1,125	1,579	556	227	253
Syria	981	-	981	86	-	231	25	31
Kuwait Regional Delegation	3,427	-	3,427	1,006	355	548	19	141
Tunis Regional Delegation	2,762	-	2,762	499	160	609	761	131
Contingency	3,853	(3)	3,850					
Total Middle East and North Africa	46,060	7,777	53,837	12,323	14,432	5,145	3,323	2,525
Balkan Crisis								
Albania, Balkan Crisis	-	20,392	20,392	2,839	6,901	338	74	1,038
Macedonia, Balkan Crisis	-	5,788	5,788	2,610	4,072	272	173	362
Yugoslavia, Balkan Crisis	-	150,984	150,984	7,149	122,443	1,299	1,562	5,339
Contingency	-	10,903	10,903					
Total Balkan Crisis	-	188,067	188,067	12,598	133,416	1,909	1,809	6,739
Special Appeals (Mines Awareness)								
TOTAL FIELD	660,171	251,567	911,738	88,009	449,976	55,203	30,538	38,448

AND INCOME IN 1999

Kind - Services)			INCOME (Cash - Kind - Services)				REPORTS OF OPERATIONS				
		Total					Surplus financing 98 brought forward	Deficit financing 98 brought forward	Corrections and transfers	Surplus financing 1999	Deficit financing 1999
	General	Expenditure	Cash	Kind	Service	Total Income					
	126	519	401	-	4	405	-	(118)	1	-	(231)
	370	3,168	2,868	-	385	3,253	-	(116)	31	-	-
	456	4,130	3,963	-	220	4,183	-	(88)	35	-	-
	1,564	25,447	26,265	2,677	186	29,128	-	(4,711)	1,030	-	-
	505	2,877	2,177	-	123	2,300	-	(155)	732	-	-
	359	6,200	9,917	1,335	330	11,582	301	-	539	6,222	-
	29	128	128	-	-	128	-	-	-	-	-
	1,005	14,452	12,574	1,675	848	15,097	-	(307)	(66)	272	-
	610	1,969	1,736	-	103	1,839	1,344	-	-	1,214	-
	327	2,080	2,080	-	-	2,080	-	-	-	-	-
	2,291	19,614	19,821	3,479	77	23,377	-	(1,280)	(1,359)	1,124	-
	742	1,203	1,204	-	-	1,204	-	-	(1)	-	-
	327	779	697	-	82	779	-	-	-	-	-
	967	2,193	2,193	-	-	2,193	-	-	-	-	-
	377	766	658	-	108	766	-	-	-	-	-
	10,055	85,525	86,682	9,166	2,466	98,314	1,645	(6,775)	942	8,832	(231)
	174	1,396	1,396	-	-	1,396	-	-	-	-	-
	73	142	142	-	-	142	-	-	-	-	-
	639	16,471	14,849	11	255	15,115	-	-	637	-	(719)
	1,475	12,893	12,167	-	114	12,281	44	-	1	-	(567)
	496	1,361	1,361	-	-	1,361	-	-	-	-	-
	369	4,109	4,109	-	-	4,109	-	-	-	-	-
	221	594	594	-	-	594	-	-	-	-	-
	539	2,608	2,647	11	81	2,739	-	(131)	-	-	-
	241	2,401	2,401	-	-	2,401	-	-	-	-	-
	4,227	41,975	39,666	22	450	40,138	44	(131)	638	-	(1,286)
	707	11,897	11,812	-	343	12,155				258	
	483	7,972	7,786	-	186	7,972				-	
	829	138,621	94,936	44,841	3,604	143,381				4,760	
	2,019	158,490	114,534	44,841	4,133	163,508	-	-	-	5,018	-
			825	-	-	825	4,799	-	(4,714)	910	
	50,933	713,104	637,983	65,002	19,731	722,715	16,438	(18,447)	3	24,190	(16,584)

7. CONTRIBUTIONS IN 1999*

(In Swiss francs)

7.0 Summary of all contributions

Country	Headquarters appeal	Emergency appeals	Reimbursement previous year	Total cash	Total kind	Total services	Sub-total	Total assets	Grand total
7.1 Governments	105,963,697	493,171,930	-405,067	598,730,560	8,974,524	2,940,141	610,645,225	528,475	611,173,700
7.2 European Commission		62,351,385		62,351,385	1,217,146		63,568,531		63,568,531
7.3 International organizations					1,266,399		1,266,399		1,266,399
7.4 Supranational organizations		251,415		251,415			251,415		251,415
7.5 National Societies	5,712,934	55,124,747		60,837,681	53,243,744	17,659,813	131,741,238	1,964,717	133,705,955
7.6 Public sources	3,324,500	1,736,333		5,060,833			5,060,833		5,060,833
7.7 Private sources	1,189,291	21,846,807		23,036,098	301,156	108,000	23,445,254	222,731	23,667,985
Grand total	116,190,422	634,482,617	-405,067	750,267,972	65,002,969	20,707,954	835,978,895	2,715,923	838,694,818

7.1 Governments

Country	Headquarters appeal	Emergency appeals	Reimbursement previous year	Total cash	Total kind	Total services	Total	Total assets	Grand total
Algeria	51,800			51,800			51,800		51,800
Andorra	53,450			53,450			53,450		53,450
Argentina	339,650			339,650			339,650		339,650
Australia	862,165	3,135,278		3,997,443	123,200		4,120,643	460,750	4,581,393
Austria	698,425	1,912,266		2,610,691			2,610,691		2,610,691
Bahamas	14,565			14,565			14,565		14,565
Barbados	1,480			1,480			1,480		1,480
Belgium	1,067,496	3,180,015		4,247,511	103,028		4,350,539		4,350,539
Benin	4,856			4,856			4,856		4,856
Bhutan	17,760			17,760			17,760		17,760
Bulgaria	25,000			25,000			25,000		25,000
Cambodia	18,300			18,300			18,300		18,300
Cameroon	14,463			14,463			14,463		14,463
Canada	1,914,792	21,030,795		22,945,587	378,566	1,812,941	25,137,094		25,137,094
Chile	47,010			47,010			47,010		47,010
China	480,000			480,000			480,000		480,000
Colombia	171,000			171,000			171,000		171,000
Costa Rica	63,090			63,090			63,090		63,090
Cyprus	75,000	35,315		110,315			110,315		110,315
Czech Republic	65,000	140,791		205,791			205,791		205,791
Denmark	2,584,921	9,571,932		12,156,853		1,039,544	13,196,397		13,196,397
Egypt	94,673			94,673			94,673		94,673
Finland	668,003	7,358,029		8,026,032	1,113,885	87,656	9,227,573		9,227,573
France	1,600,000	8,260,839	-37,763	9,823,076			9,823,076		9,823,076
Germany	1,386,981	10,206,550	-367,304	11,226,227	5,247,265		16,473,492		16,473,492
Greece	350,000			350,000			350,000		350,000
Guyana	4,819			4,819			4,819		4,819
Holy See	7,282	7,282		14,564			14,564		14,564
Hungary	50,000	15,900		65,900			65,900		65,900
Iceland	60,000	71,556		131,556			131,556		131,556
India	20,634			20,634			20,634		20,634
Ireland	202,777	1,726,777		1,929,554	708,777		2,638,331		2,638,331

* The tables in sections 7 and 8 below include the ICRC's portion of the contributions received in the framework of the Integrated Appeal of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement in response to the Balkan Crisis.

7. CONTRIBUTIONS IN 1999

(In Swiss francs)

Country	Headquarters appeal	Emergency appeals	Reimbursement previous year	Total cash	Total kind	Total services	Total	Total assets	Grand total
Israel	137,200			137,200			137,200		137,200
Italy	1,240,650	7,033,470		8,274,120			8,274,120		8,274,120
Japan	1,277,000	27,376,271		28,653,271			28,653,271		28,653,271
Korea, Rep. of	307,860			307,860			307,860		307,860
Kuwait	1,444,956			1,444,956			1,444,956		1,444,956
Libya	30,250			30,250			30,250		30,250
Liechtenstein	150,000	410,000		560,000			560,000		560,000
Luxembourg	316,312	3,460,876		3,777,188			3,777,188		3,777,188
Malaysia	22,545			22,545			22,545		22,545
Malta	15,000			15,000			15,000		15,000
Mauritius	15,220			15,220			15,220		15,220
Mexico	152,888			152,888			152,888		152,888
Monaco	97,000	85,871		182,871			182,871		182,871
Morocco	50,000			50,000			50,000		50,000
Netherlands	1,167,883	44,563,449		45,731,332			45,731,332		45,731,332
New Zealand	401,700	59,562		461,262			461,262		461,262
Norway	950,184	21,468,470		22,418,654	1,141,403		23,560,057	67,725	23,627,782
Oman	7,625			7,625			7,625		7,625
Panama	49,494			49,494			49,494		49,494
Peru	14,800			14,800			14,800		14,800
Philippines	297,267			297,267			297,267		297,267
Poland	125,000	57,760		182,760			182,760		182,760
Portugal	200,000	868,825		1,068,825			1,068,825		1,068,825
Samoa	7,282			7,282			7,282		7,282
St. Marino	40,000			40,000			40,000		40,000
Saudi Arabia	304,500	318,000		622,500			622,500		622,500
Singapore	39,750			39,750			39,750		39,750
Slovak Republic	35,000	53,375		88,375			88,375		88,375
Slovenia	220,000			220,000			220,000		220,000
South Africa	82,475	331,590		414,065			414,065		414,065
Spain	500,000	902,834		1,402,834			1,402,834		1,402,834
Sri Lanka	15,900			15,900			15,900		15,900
Sudan	15,322			15,322			15,322		15,322
Sweden	1,782,000	36,317,712		38,099,712			38,099,712		38,099,712
Switzerland	65,960,000	25,814,634		91,774,634			91,774,634		91,774,634
Syria	14,900			14,900			14,900		14,900
Thailand	102,900			102,900			102,900		102,900
Tunisia	11,474			11,474			11,474		11,474
United Kingdom	1,276,373	68,623,403		69,899,776			69,899,776		69,899,776
United States of America	14,025,900	188,772,503		202,798,403	158,400		202,956,803		202,956,803
Uruguay	43,695			43,695			43,695		43,695
Total from governments	105,963,697	493,171,930	-405,067	598,730,560	8,974,524	2,940,141	610,645,225	528,475	611,173,700

7. CONTRIBUTIONS IN 1999

(in Swiss francs)

7.2 European Commission

Donor	Headquarters appeal	Emergency appeals	Total cash	Total kind	Total services	Total	Total assets	Grand total
EC DG I		7,696,800	7,696,800			7,696,800		7,696,800
EC food aid DG VIII		22,746,853	22,746,853			22,746,853		22,746,853
ECHO		31,907,732	31,907,732	1,217,146		33,124,878		33,124,878
Total from European Commission		62,351,385	62,351,385	1,217,146		63,568,531		63,568,531

7.3 International organizations

	Headquarters appeal	Emergency appeals	Total cash	Total kind	Total services	Total	Total assets	Grand total
WFP				1,180,017		1,180,017		1,180,017
Various UN				86,382		86,382		86,382
Total from international organizations				1,266,399		1,266,399		1,266,399

7.4 Supranational organizations

	Headquarters appeal	Emergency appeals	Total cash	Total kind	Total services	Total	Total assets	Grand total
AG Fund		251,415	251,415					251,415
Total from supranational organizations		251,415	251,415					251,415

7.5 National Societies

Country	Headquarters appeal	Emergency appeals	Total cash	Total kind	Total services	Total	Total assets	Grand total
Andorra	906	65,631	66,537			66,537		66,537
Australia	173,290	429,499	602,789		1,476,143	2,078,932		2,078,932
Austria	63,621	1,244,971	1,308,592	2,648,593	289,858	4,247,043		4,247,043
Bahamas	2,749		2,749			2,749		2,749
Belgium	115,363	3,881,319	3,996,682	1,933,597	907,722	6,838,001		6,838,001
Brazil	812		812			812		812
Bulgaria	1,200		1,200			1,200		1,200
Cambodia	1,503		1,503			1,503		1,503
Canada		1,321,657	1,321,657			1,321,657		1,321,657
Cape Verde	1,002		1,002			1,002		1,002
Chile	5,243		5,243			5,243		5,243
China	57,338		57,338			57,338		57,338
China - Hong Kong		55,920	55,920	159,000	33,120	248,040		248,040
Colombia	41,825		41,825			41,825		41,825
Cook Islands		1,610	1,610			1,610		1,610

7. CONTRIBUTIONS IN 1999

(In Swiss francs)

Country	Headquarters appeal	Emergency appeals	Total cash	Total kind	Total services	Total	Total assets	Grand total
Croatia	5,302		5,302			5,302		5,302
Cyprus		9,108	9,108			9,108		9,108
Czech Republic	26,445		26,445	7,000		33,445		33,445
Denmark	99,163	4,492,166	4,591,329	4,182,163		8,773,492	351,592	9,125,084
Dominica	393		393			393		393
Ecuador	2,455		2,455			2,455		2,455
Egypt	9,327		9,327	17,550		26,877		26,877
Estonia	3,535	5,733	9,268			9,268		9,268
Ethiopia	6,480		6,480			6,480		6,480
Fiji	884		884		20,149	21,033		21,033
Finland	100,597	2,948,577	3,049,174	2,075,584	1,382,791	6,507,549		6,507,549
France	520,741		520,741	4,594,132	1,193,937	6,308,810		6,308,810
Germany	1,128,692	5,734,330	6,863,022	9,570,119	2,207,272	18,640,413	148,743	18,789,156
Greece	24,297	202,756	227,053	319,638	185,647	732,338		732,338
Hungary	5,000		5,000			5,000		5,000
Iceland	30,436	707,111	737,547	122,997	501,677	1,362,221		1,362,221
Iran	34,264		34,264			34,264		34,264
Ireland	15,709	2,195,627	2,211,336	395,794	424,647	3,031,777		3,031,777
Italy	247,125	553,802	800,927		126,767	927,694		927,694
Japan	1,204,500	2,113,110	3,317,610	125,056	587,991	4,030,657		4,030,657
Jordan	884		884			884		884
Korea, Rep. of	185,857	186,334	372,191		42,180	414,371		414,371
Latvia	2,620	5,683	8,303			8,303		8,303
Lesotho	1,178		1,178			1,178		1,178
Liechtenstein	16,494	1,897,935	1,914,429			1,914,429		1,914,429
Luxembourg	27,196	241,885	269,081			269,081		269,081
Madagascar	393		393			393		393
Malta	589	30,965	31,554			31,554		31,554
Mauritius	884		884			884		884
Monaco	18,164	208,490	226,654			226,654		226,654
Mongolia	1,229		1,229			1,229		1,229
Morocco	1,536		1,536			1,536		1,536
Mozambique	601		601			601		601
Namibia	589		589			589		589
Nepal	1,080		1,080			1,080		1,080
Netherlands	231,119	3,821,225	4,052,344	2,007,075	1,374,361	7,433,780	25,000	7,458,780
New Zealand	41,825	607,663	649,488		618,946	1,268,434		1,268,434
Nigeria	1,133		1,133			1,133		1,133
Norway	135,329	5,248,650	5,383,979	9,002,343	1,781,019	16,167,341	53,467	16,220,808
Pakistan	4,584		4,584			4,584		4,584
Papua New Guinea	2,275		2,275			2,275		2,275
Paraguay	1,767		1,767			1,767		1,767
Portugal	39,862	31,826	71,688	80,852		152,540		152,540
Qatar	5,596		5,596			5,596		5,596
Romania	12,174		12,174			12,174		12,174
Senegal	1,758		1,758			1,758		1,758
Sierra Leone	1,013		1,013			1,013		1,013
Singapore		282,628	282,628			282,628		282,628
Slovak Republic	7,658		7,658			7,658		7,658
Slovenia	17,135		17,135			17,135		17,135
Spain	315,947	2,047,089	2,363,036	1,250,002	157,325	3,770,363		3,770,363
Sweden	123,165	5,704,720	5,827,885	2,702,361	1,031,220	9,561,466	1,105,650	10,667,116

7. CONTRIBUTIONS IN 1999

(In Swiss francs)

Country	Headquarters appeal	Emergency appeals	Total cash	Total kind	Total services	Total	Total assets	Grand total
Switzerland	119,585	685,259	804,844	2,946,246	550,712	4,301,802		4,301,802
Syria	4,483		4,483			4,483		4,483
Thailand	51,349		51,349			51,349		51,349
Trinidad & Tobago	2,160		2,160			2,160		2,160
Tunisia		2,119	2,119			2,119		2,119
United Kingdom	400,418	2,869,930	3,270,348	6,172,983	2,231,556	11,674,887	253,285	11,928,172
United States of America		5,289,419	5,289,419	1,771,861	534,773	7,596,053		7,596,053
Uruguay	457		457			457		457
Vietnam	1,375		1,375			1,375		1,375
Yemen	1,276		1,276			1,276		1,276
Various National Societies				31,811		31,811		31,811
International Federation of Red Cross & Red Crescent Societies				1,126,987		1,126,987	26,980	1,153,967
Total from National Societies	5,712,934	55,124,747	60,837,681	53,243,744	17,659,813	131,741,238	1,964,717	133,705,955

7.6 Public sources

	Total cash	Total kind	Total services	Total	Total assets	Grand total
Aargau	176,575			176,575		176,575
Basel-Landschaft	70,630			70,630		70,630
Bellinzona	5,000			5,000		5,000
Chêne-Bougeries	35,000			35,000		35,000
Collex-Bossy	1,413			1,413		1,413
Collonge-Bellerive	16,626			16,626		16,626
Cologne	35,315			35,315		35,315
Commune di Cormons, Italia	965			965		965
Confignon	3,532			3,532		3,532
Conseil Général du Val d'Oise, France	24,544			24,544		24,544
Fribourg, Canton of	27,000			27,000		27,000
Fribourg, City of	7,063			7,063		7,063
Geneva, Canton of	4,000,000			4,000,000		4,000,000
Geneva, City of	260,315			260,315		260,315
Lugano	30,000			30,000		30,000
Meyrin	7,063			7,063		7,063
Puy-de-Dôme, France	17,335			17,335		17,335
Regione Trentino, Alto Adige Italia	117,457			117,457		117,457
Zurich, Canton of	160,000			160,000		160,000
Kloten	65,000			65,000		65,000
Total from public sources	5,060,833			5,060,833		5,060,833

7. CONTRIBUTIONS IN 1999

(In Swiss francs)

7.7 Private sources

	Total cash	Total kind	Total services	Total	Total assets	Grand total
Direct mail and fundraising campaigns in Switzerland	2,772,651			2,772,651		2,772,651
Gifts	8,743,640			8,743,640		8,743,640
Donations from foundations/funds:						
Foundation for the International Committee of the Red Cross	60,053			60,053		60,053
The Link Foundation	42,750			42,750		42,750
The Flora Family Foundation	26,310			26,310		26,310
H.E.M Stiftung	100,000			100,000		100,000
Kantonale St.Gallische Winkelriedstiftung	10,000			10,000		10,000
Kolb'sche Familien-Stiftung	10,000			10,000		10,000
Montarina Stiftung	40,000			40,000		40,000
Mosaic Foundation	107,711			107,711		107,711
Noric Foundation	157,172			157,172		157,172
Fondation Albert E. Oechslin	100,000			100,000		100,000
Fondation Odéon	61,600			61,600		61,600
Open Society Institute	89,880			89,880		89,880
Fondation Paprioz	50,000			50,000		50,000
RPH-Promotor Stiftung	34,647			34,647		34,647
The Supreme Master Ching Hai International Association	109,193			109,193		109,193
Valmont Stiftung	35,315			35,315		35,315
Fondation Hans Wilsdorf	65,000			65,000		65,000
Others (below Sfr 10.000.-)	64,806			64,806		64,806
Legacies	2,042,053			2,042,053		2,042,053
Support Association	320,000			320,000		320,000
Companies	1,652,080			1,652,080		1,652,080
Ad hoc campaigns:						
Rotary Foundation	4,484,237			4,484,237		4,484,237
Rotary International(Switzerland)	402,000			402,000		402,000
Rotary International(Germany)	105,000			105,000		105,000
UEFA	1,350,000			1,350,000		1,350,000
Various donors		301,156	108,000	409,156	222,731	631,887
Total from private sources	23,036,098	301,156	108,000	23,445,254	222,731	23,667,985

8. CONTRIBUTIONS IN KIND, IN SERVICES

(in Swiss francs)	Donations in kind (excl. DP)	Donations in services				Other services field
		Staff				
	Field	No. of missions	No. of days	Field	Headquarters	
NATIONAL SOCIETIES						
Australia		68	7,810	1,476,143		
Austria	2,648,593	7	625	119,001	50,583	
Belgium	1,891,258	16	2,692	447,347	93,600	
China	159,000	1	96	33,120		
Czech Republic	7,000					
Denmark	4,182,163					
Egypt	17,550					
Fiji		2	70	20,149		
Finland	1,989,397	28	2,936	711,073	98,203	
France	4,594,132	33	5,845	1,193,937		
Germany	7,316,720	47	6,263	1,263,612	228,414	60,000
Greece	319,638	6	595	151,697		
Iceland	122,997	16	2,007	501,677		
Ireland	395,794	16	1,594	424,647		
Italy		5	520	103,535		
Japan		25	1,739	457,569	18,764	
Korea		1	180	42,180		
Netherlands	1,955,552	44	5,193	1,189,534	25,341	
New Zealand		22	3,164	618,946		
Norway	5,735,653	34	3,591	849,972	56,241	
Portugal	80,852					
Spain	1,239,523					
Sweden	2,126,981	21	2,990	731,467		
Switzerland	2,937,500	12	1,582	377,732		
United Kingdom	5,005,994	86	9,239	1,754,721	348,574	
United States of America	1,771,861	9	917	239,210		
International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies	1,126,987					
Various	31,811					
GOVERNMENTS						
Australia	123,200					
Belgium	103,028					
Canada		68	9,331	1,326,904		
Denmark		22	3,577	887,453	57,387	
Finland	654,155					
Germany	5,247,265					
Ireland	708,777					
Norway	1,141,403					
United States of America	158,400					
ORGANIZATIONS						
European Union	1,217,146					
WFP	1,180,017					
Various	86,382					
PRIVATE DONORS						
Various	301,156					108,000
Grand total	56,577,885	589	72,556	14,921,626	977,107	168,000
Grand total kind						
Grand total services						

AND TO DELEGATED PROJECTS 1999

Donations for delegated projects (DP)				Grand total			
In kind	In services	In cash	Total deleg. proj.	Field kind (Incl. DP)	Field services	Headquarters services	Deleg. proj. cash
		53,523	53,523		1,476,143		53,523
	120,274	712,349	832,623	2,648,593	239,275	50,583	712,349
42,339	366,775	2,223,093	2,632,207	1,933,597	814,122	93,600	2,223,093
				159,000	33,120		
				7,000			
				4,182,163			
				17,550			
					20,149		
86,187	573,515	354,151	1,013,853	2,075,584	1,284,588	98,203	354,151
				4,594,132	1,193,937		
2,253,399	655,246	2,667,325	5,575,970	9,570,119	1,978,858	228,414	2,667,325
	33,950	67,756	101,706	319,638	185,647		67,756
				122,997	501,677		
				395,794	424,647		
	23,232	361,639	384,871		126,767		361,639
125,056	111,658	479,258	715,972	125,056	569,227	18,764	479,258
					42,180		
51,523	159,486	1,126,822	1,337,831	2,007,075	1,349,020	25,341	1,126,822
					618,946		
3,266,690	874,806	1,185,340	5,326,836	9,002,343	1,724,778	56,241	1,185,340
				80,852			
10,479	157,325	1,941,960	2,109,764	1,250,002	157,325		1,941,960
575,380	299,753	831,582	1,706,715	2,702,361	1,031,220		831,582
8,746	172,980	236,608	418,334	2,946,246	550,712		236,608
1,166,989	128,261	1,617,803	2,913,053	6,172,983	1,882,982	348,574	1,617,803
	295,563	746,455	1,042,018	1,771,861	534,773		746,455
				1,126,987			
				31,811			
				123,200			
				103,028			
378,566	486,037	1,103,105	1,967,708	378,566	1,812,941		1,103,105
	94,704	271,563	366,267		982,157	57,387	271,563
459,730	87,656	776,646	1,324,032	1,113,885	87,656		776,646
				5,247,265			
				708,777			
				1,141,403			
				158,400			
				1,217,146			
				1,180,017			
				86,382			
				301,156	108,000		
8,425,084	4,641,221	16,756,978	29,823,283	65,002,969	19,730,847	977,107	16,756,978
				65,002,969			
					20,707,954		

9. RELIEF AND MEDICAL ASSISTANCE TABLES

The statistical data in the following tables can be summarized as follows:

9.1 Contributions in kind received and purchases made by the ICRC in 1999

All relief and medical goods received as contributions in kind or purchases by the ICRC and inventoried in the country of final destination between January 1 and December 31, 1999. The figures for contributions in kind cover all material support received as a gift but do not include any services received, such as the provision of human resources and/or logistic means. The figures for medical and relief purchases comprise all procurements carried out both with unearmarked and with earmarked financial contributions ("cash for kind"). The grand total of 222,159,215 therefore corresponds to the grand total given in the table "Relief and medical supplies dispatched by the ICRC in 1999".

9.2 Relief and medical supplies dispatched by the ICRC in 1999

All relief and medical goods received as contributions in kind or purchased by the ICRC and inventoried in the country of final destination between January 1 and December 31, 1999.

9.3 Relief and medical supplies distributed by the ICRC in 1999

All relief and medical goods distributed by the ICRC in the field between January 1 and December 31, 1999. These goods were either purchased or received in kind during 1999 or taken from stocks already constituted at the end of 1998.

9.1 CONTRIBUTIONS IN KIND RECEIVED AND PURCHASES MADE BY THE ICRC IN 1999

(by donors and purchases, according to stock entry date)

Donors	Food (Tonnes)	Seeds (Tonnes)	Blankets (Units)	Tents (Units)	Kitchen sets (Units)	Clothes (Tonnes)	Other relief goods (Tonnes)	Total relief (\$fr)	Medical (\$fr)	Grand total (\$fr)
NATIONAL SOCIETIES	26,249.0	0.0	559,900	3,151	60,740	365.9	3,411.8	44,369,699	3,251,974	47,621,673
Austria	2,199.5					34.8	157.5	2,648,593		2,648,593
Belgium	1,003.2				10,000	7.8	78.6	1,891,258		1,891,258
China	191.5							159,000		159,000
Czech Republic			1,000					7,000		7,000
Denmark	2,303.5		46,500	2		48.0	319.3	4,426,505	107,250	4,533,755
Egypt	40.0		450					17,550		17,550
Finland	1,278.5		78,000		22,800		22.8	1,989,397		1,989,397
France	1,590.4							4,594,132		4,594,132
Germany	10,851.0				4,320	1.3	348.9	6,216,935	1,248,528	7,465,463
Greece	240.0							319,638		319,638
Iceland	117.4							122,997		122,997
Ireland			23,750					395,794		395,794
Netherlands	3,249.5					6.1	404.7	1,980,552		1,980,552
Norway	1,615.3		94,920	47		24.8	280.3	4,378,873	1,410,247	5,789,120
Portugal	70.7		500				3.9	80,852		80,852
Spain	21.1		3,750		500	0.1	251.1	1,159,728	79,795	1,239,523
Sweden	244.8		25,000			205.3	435.1	3,227,771	4,860	3,232,631
Switzerland			100,020	2,902	14,500	29.2	48.7	2,889,472	48,028	2,937,500
United Kingdom	730.7		131,010		5,620	8.5	927.2	5,093,648	165,631	5,259,279
United States of America	336.9		55,000				42.2	1,616,037	155,824	1,771,861
International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies	165.0			200	3,000		91.5	1,153,967		1,153,967
Various									31,811	31,811
GOVERNMENTS	7,145.9	3.8	19,280	0	0	27.7	305.9	7,634,898	1,029,805	8,664,703
Australia	167.4						25.0	583,950		583,950
Belgium			19,280					103,028		103,028
Finland	420.0						103.7	654,155		654,155
Germany	6,320.3	3.8				20.4	41.8	5,234,914	12,351	5,247,265
Ireland	200.0						134.4	708,777		708,777
Norway						7.3	1.0	191,674	1,017,454	1,209,128
United States of America	38.2							158,400		158,400
VARIOUS DONORS	4,548.2	0.0	6,302	0	345	5.0	58.1	2,829,016	43,416	2,872,432
European Union	1,900.0							1,217,146		1,217,146
United Nations (WFP, HCR, UNICEF)	2,632.8		6,302		345		14.9	1,266,399		1,266,399
Other donors	15.4					5.0	43.2	345,471	43,416	388,887
TOTAL GIFTS IN KIND	37,943.1	3.8	585,482	3,151	61,085	398.6	3,775.8	54,833,613	4,325,195	59,158,808
ICRC purchases (non-earmarked)	59,440.8	11,481.0	770,226	10,433	65,251	613.8	24,401.8	85,541,792	33,001,534	118,543,326
ICRC purchases (cash for kind)	22,966.0	1,287.4	113,645	5,500	0	466.8	2,824.5	39,029,768	5,422,313	44,452,081
TOTAL ICRC PURCHASES	82,406.8	12,768.4	883,871	15,933	65,251	1,080.6	27,226.3	124,571,560	38,423,847	162,995,407
GRAND TOTAL	120,349.9	12,772.2	1,469,353	19,084	126,336	1,479.2	31,002.1	179,405,173	42,749,042	222,154,215

9.2 RELIEF SUPPLIES DISPATCHED BY THE ICRC IN 1999

(by receiving countries, according to stock entry date)

Countries	Gifts in kind			Purchases by the ICRC			Total dispatched			Total
	Medical (\$tr)	Relief (\$tr)	(Tonnes)	Medical (\$tr)	Relief (\$tr)	(Tonnes)	Medical (\$tr)	Relief (\$tr)	(Tonnes)	
AFRICA	1,843,818	6,362,325	7,181.4	17,162,049	39,584,536	49,492.4	19,005,867	45,946,861	56,673.8	64,952,728
Angola	312,244	3,683,769	5,096.8	999,860	9,560,644	14,028.6	1,312,104	13,244,413	19,125.4	14,556,517
Burundi				127,892	79,958	18.9	127,892	79,958	18.9	207,850
Cameroon, Central African Rep., Chad				30,776	40,365	16.0	30,776	40,365	16.0	71,141
Republic of the Congo	31,811	419,261	696.5	748,152	183,888	69.8	779,963	603,149	766.3	1,383,112
Democratic Republic of the Congo		26,980	1.7	1,542,241	4,302,642	5,074.9	1,542,241	4,329,622	5,076.6	5,871,863
Côte d'Ivoire				7,848	25,786	15.3	7,848	25,786	15.3	33,634
Djibouti				1,641	3,615	0.9	1,641	3,615	0.9	5,256
Eritrea	1,353,028	365,267	57.1	1,236,067	3,850,261	7,157.5	2,589,095	4,215,528	7,214.6	6,804,623
Ethiopia				701,780	266,629	164.0	701,780	266,629	164.0	968,409
Guinea Bissau		10,434	22.0	26,757	42,865	27.2	26,757	53,299	49.2	80,056
Kenya, Tanzania				225,106	27,451	22.3	225,106	27,451	22.3	252,557
Liberia				86,973	71,132	32.2	86,973	71,132	32.2	158,105
Madagascar, Comoros				14,184	892	0.1	14,184	892	0.1	15,076
Mali				535,907	151,800	74.2	535,907	151,800	74.2	687,707
Nigeria				14,029	88,588	43.3	14,029	88,588	43.3	102,617
Rwanda		704,950	1,000.0	2,250,427	3,697,992	8,537.6	2,250,427	4,402,942	9,537.6	6,653,369
Senegal, Guinea				3,904	132,256	252.6	3,904	132,256	252.6	136,160
Sierra Leone		425,973	141.4	307,696	1,460,635	2,708.1	307,696	1,866,608	2,849.5	2,194,304
Somalia				178,789	4,002,598	2,946.7	178,789	4,002,598	2,946.7	4,181,387
Sudan	45,703	315,024	37.4	816,957	2,648,561	1,719.4	862,660	2,963,585	1,756.8	3,826,245
Uganda		410,667	128.5	300,053	4,000,986	3,123.3	300,053	4,411,653	3,251.8	4,711,706
Zimbabwe, Lesotho				250	1,408	0.1	250	1,408	0.1	1,658
Regional & emergency stocks in Kenya	101,032			7,004,760	4,943,584	3,459.4	7,105,792	4,943,584	3,459.4	12,049,376
LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN		40,176	6.7	1,097,920	8,563,424	7,441.5	1,097,920	8,603,600	7,448.2	9,701,520
Colombia				363,819	6,951,412	4,782.6	363,819	6,951,412	4,782.6	7,315,231
Haiti				36,816	102,084	83.3	36,816	102,084	83.3	138,900
Mexico				456,329	1,199,240	2,316.7	456,329	1,199,240	2,316.7	1,655,569
Peru		40,176	6.7	240,956	310,688	258.9	240,956	350,864	265.6	591,820
ASIA AND THE PACIFIC	1,152,300	1,732,321	3,005.1	5,191,014	16,744,385	21,389.3	6,343,314	18,476,706	24,394.4	24,820,020
Afghanistan		717,000	2,500.0	3,611,118	9,412,180	12,984.5	3,611,118	10,129,180	15,484.5	13,740,298
Cambodia				217,869	7,944	1.7	217,869	7,944	1.7	225,813
India				80	3,368	0.5	80	3,368	0.5	3,448
Indonesia	1,152,300	756,470	228.1	820,041	6,287,096	6,065.4	1,972,341	7,043,566	6,293.5	9,015,907
Kyrgyzstan					1,749	2.5		1,749	2.5	1,749
Myanmar				118,364	8,789	3.6	118,364	8,789	3.6	127,153
Pakistan					11,402	0.9		11,402	0.9	11,402
Philippines				6,960	231,048	380.0	6,960	231,048	380.0	238,008
Solomon Islands		123,200	167.4	1,672	202,750	110.5	1,672	325,950	277.9	327,622
Sri Lanka		48,611	28.0	315,055	500,545	1,745.2	315,055	549,156	1,773.2	864,211
Tajikistan		87,040	81.6	99,855	77,514	94.5	99,855	164,554	176.1	264,409
EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA	1,329,077	46,698,791	33,444.2	11,019,044	58,771,150	47,569.1	12,348,121	105,469,941	81,013.3	117,818,062
Albania		78,823	8.6	419,273	272,159	15.9	419,273	350,982	24.5	770,255
Armenia				73,438	164,641	26.9	73,438	164,641	26.9	238,079
Azerbaijan				166,418	129,962	49.4	166,418	129,962	49.4	296,380
Bosnia-Herzegovina	57,678	2,614,150	725.7	2,959,211	4,732,541	13,208.3	3,016,889	7,346,691	13,934.0	10,363,580
Croatia				4,750	1,100	0.1	4,750	1,100	0.1	5,850
Federal Republic of Yugoslavia	1,239,739	39,517,753	29,576.4	6,695,572	49,282,750	29,858.1	7,935,311	88,800,503	59,434.5	96,735,814
Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia				50,286	87,688	28.6	50,286	87,688	28.6	137,974
Georgia		953,740	1,753.5	372,046	1,016,159	1,158.6	372,046	1,969,899	2,912.1	2,341,945
Russian Federation		3,479,058	1,368.7	192,287	2,054,062	2,971.6	192,287	5,533,120	4,340.3	5,725,407
Emergency stocks W. Europe and Caucasus	31,660	55,267	11.3	85,763	1,030,088	251.6	117,423	1,085,355	262.9	1,202,778
MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA				3,953,820	908,065	406.4	3,953,820	908,065	406.4	4,861,885
Iraq				3,291,440	539,591	254.7	3,291,440	539,591	254.7	3,831,031
Israel (incl. occupied/autonomous territories)				24,262	226,362	86.0	24,262	226,362	86.0	250,624
Lebanon				436,508	132,103	62.8	436,508	132,103	62.8	568,611
Western Sahara				160,001	5,351	1.6	160,001	5,351	1.6	165,352
Yemen				41,609	4,658	1.3	41,609	4,658	1.3	46,267
GRAND TOTAL	4,325,195	54,833,613	43,637.4	38,423,847	124,571,560	126,298.7	42,749,042	179,405,173	169,936.1	222,154,215

9.3 RELIEF SUPPLIES DISTRIBUTED BY THE ICRC IN 1999

	Medical (Str)	Relief (Str)	(Tonnes)	Total (Str)
AFRICA	19,313,157	44,388,949	50,286.1	63,702,106
Angola	1,099,470	8,178,720	11,176.0	9,278,190
Burundi	289,047	146,953	49.4	436,000
Comeroon, Central African Rep., Chad	40,272	59,055	21.0	99,327
Republic of the Congo	946,695	1,714,157	2,039.5	2,660,852
Democratic Republic of the Congo	3,606,725	4,930,696	4,759.9	8,537,421
Côte d'Ivoire	7,848	55,893	21.8	63,741
Djibouti	2,123	14,493	2.4	16,616
Eritrea	2,845,615	4,780,084	7,431.4	7,625,699
Ethiopia	893,730	299,204	167.6	1,192,934
Guinea Bissau	27,845	197,300	79.8	225,145
Kenya, Tanzania	373,876	662,819	658.1	1,036,695
Liberia	87,887	71,132	32.2	159,019
Madagascar, Comoros	14,184	892	0.1	15,076
Mali	535,907	170,914	78.3	706,821
Nigeria	4,431	121,479	46.5	125,910
Rwanda	2,819,801	8,085,021	12,361.7	10,904,822
Senegal, Guinea	3,904	132,256	252.7	136,160
Sierra Leone	289,005	2,480,197	2,976.7	2,769,202
Somalia	1,112,863	4,011,720	2,953.5	5,124,583
Sudan	3,849,779	3,212,268	1,752.4	7,062,047
Uganda	461,900	5,062,288	3,425.0	5,524,188
Zimbabwe, Lesotho	250	1,408	0.1	1,658
LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN	1,106,636	8,166,722	6,549.7	9,273,358
Colombia	363,819	6,951,412	4,782.6	7,315,231
Haiti	36,816	102,084	83.3	138,900
Mexico	456,329	774,904	1,420.7	1,231,233
Peru	249,672	338,322	263.1	587,994
ASIA AND THE PACIFIC	6,244,371	17,553,883	27,277.7	23,798,254
Afghanistan	3,389,927	11,404,242	20,270.3	14,794,169
Cambodia	259,762	7,944	1.7	267,706
India	80	3,368	0.5	3,448
Indonesia	2,029,201	4,773,036	4,403.5	6,802,237
Kyrgyzstan		31,352	29.1	31,352
Myanmar	118,364	8,789	3.6	127,153
Pakistan		32,375	7.7	32,375
Philippines	6,960	231,048	380.0	238,008
Solomon Islands	1,672	325,950	277.9	327,622
Sri Lanka	322,055	486,018	1,723.3	808,073
Tajikistan	116,350	249,761	180.1	366,111
EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA	13,357,532	69,234,085	74,955.6	82,591,617
Albania	437,405	242,150	19.2	679,555
Armenia	103,652	186,406	38.2	290,058
Azerbaijan	223,538	131,896	49.7	355,434
Bosnia-Herzegovina	3,378,227	8,126,969	24,182.4	11,505,196
Croatia	4,750	1,100	0.1	5,850
Federal Republic of Yugoslavia	8,298,404	54,045,881	43,992.6	62,344,285
Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	50,286	87,688	28.6	137,974
Georgia	619,570	2,250,714	2,920.5	2,870,284
Russian Federation	241,700	4,161,281	3,724.3	4,402,981
MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA	4,294,098	1,623,088	510.0	5,917,186
Iraq	3,442,484	1,149,600	323.9	4,592,084
Israel (including occupied/autonomous territories)	24,262	243,116	86.8	267,378
Lebanon	625,742	220,363	96.4	846,105
Western Sahara	160,001	5,351	1.6	165,352
Yemen	41,609	4,658	1.3	46,267
GRAND TOTAL	44,315,794	140,966,727	159,579.1	185,282,521

10. SPECIAL FUNDS

10.1 Foundation for the International Committee of the Red Cross

BALANCE SHEET AS AT DECEMBER 31, 1999

ASSETS		LIABILITIES	
	Sfr		Sfr
Securities (market value: Sfr 3,648,608)	3,109,935	<i>Inalienable capital:</i>	
		– Initial balance	2,641,429
		– Allocation from 1999	<u>125,452</u>
			2,766,881
Federal Tax Administration, Bern (withholding tax refund)	17,257	<i>Available funds:</i>	
		– Initial balance	<u>330,000</u>
			330,000
Banks	2,303		
		International Committee of the Red Cross, current account	62,614
	3,159,495		3,159,495

RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR 1999

EXPENDITURE		RECEIPTS	
	Sfr		Sfr
Bank and custody charges	14,304	Income from securities	95,151
Charges on purchase/sale of securities	19,746	Bank interest	2,622
Loss on sale of securities	81,075	Profit on refund of securities	206,528
Audit fees	2,077		
Other expenses	980		
Loss on exchange rate	614		
	118,796		304,301

RESULT

	Sfr
Gross excess of receipts over expenditure in 1999	185,505
Allocation of net result on securities transactions to the inalienable capital	–125,452
Statutory allocation to the ICRC of net excess of receipts over expenditure in 1999	60,053

10. SPECIAL FUNDS

10.2 Augusta Fund

BALANCE SHEET AS AT DECEMBER 31, 1999

ASSETS		LIABILITIES	
	Sfr		Sfr
Share of the overall capital of the special funds	137,789	Inalienable capital	100,000
		Provision	18,470
International Committee of the Red Cross, current account	2,373	Share of the overall provision for portfolio variation:	
		Balance brought forward from 1998	9,367
		Allocation in 1999	<u>135</u>
			9,502
		Florence Nightingale Medal Fund, current account:	
		Balance brought forward from 1998	100,344
		Transfer to Florence Nightingale Medal Fund	-100,344
		Excess of receipts over expenditure in 1999	<u>12,190</u>
			12,190
	140,162		140,162

RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR 1999

EXPENDITURE		RECEIPTS	
	Sfr		Sfr
Audit fees	167	Share of net revenue from the overall capital of the special funds	12,492
Share of increase of the overall provision	135		
	302		12,492

RESULT

Excess of receipts over expenditure in 1999	Sfr
	12,190

10. SPECIAL FUNDS

10.3 FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE MEDAL FUND

BALANCE SHEET AS AT DECEMBER 31, 1999

ASSETS		LIABILITIES	
	Sfr		Sfr
Share of the overall capital of the special funds	303,870	Capital	75,000
Stock of medals	37,530	<i>Reserve:</i>	
		Balance brought forward from 1998	233,161
		Excess of receipts over expenditure in 1999	<u>34,510</u>
			267,671
Augusta Fund, current account	100,344		
Balance brought forward from 1998		<i>Share of the overall provision for</i>	
Transfer from Augusta Fund	-100,344	<i>portfolio variation:</i>	
Excess of receipts over expenditure of		Balance brought forward from 1998	10,038
the Augusta Fund	12,190	Allocation in 1999	<u>312</u>
			10,350
		International Committee of the	
		Red Cross, current account	569
	353,590		353,590

RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR 1999

EXPENDITURE		RECEIPTS	
	Sfr		Sfr
Audit fees	234	Allocation of the excess of receipts over	
Presentation of medals, printing and		expenditure as at December 31, 1999 of the	
dispatching circulars	5,991	Augusta Fund, in accordance with the	
		decision of the Twenty-first International	
		Conference of the Red Cross	12,190
Share of increase of the overall provision	312	Share of net revenue from the overall	
		capital of the special funds	28,857
	6,537		41,047

RESULT

	Sfr
Excess of receipts over expenditure in 1999	34,510

10. SPECIAL FUNDS

10.4 CLARE R. BENEDICT FUND

BALANCE SHEET AS AT DECEMBER 31, 1999

ASSETS		LIABILITIES	
	Sfr		Sfr
Share of the overall capital of the special funds	3,492,848	Capital	1,632,629
		<i>Share of the overall provision for portfolio variation:</i>	
		Balance brought forward from 1998	188,497
		Allocation in 1999	<u>3,508</u>
			192,005
		<i>Receipts and expenditure account:</i>	
		Balance brought forward from 1998	1,347,794
		Excess of receipts over expenditure in 1999	<u>317,919</u>
			1,665,713
		International Committee of the Red Cross, current account	2,501
	3,492,848		3,492,848

RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR 1999

EXPENDITURE		RECEIPTS	
	Sfr		Sfr
Audit fees	2,501	Share of net revenue from the overall capital of the special funds	323,928
Share of increase of the overall provision	3,508		
	6,009		323,928

RESULT

Excess of receipts over expenditure in 1999 for attribution	Sfr
	317,919

10. SPECIAL FUNDS

10.5 MAURICE DE MADRE FRENCH FUND

BALANCE SHEET AS AT DECEMBER 31, 1999

ASSETS		LIABILITIES		
	Sfr		Sfr	Sfr
Share of the overall capital of the special funds	4,217,856	<i>Capital:</i>		
		Balance brought forward from 1998	3,633,602	
		Excess of receipts over expenditure in 1999	<u>304,378</u>	
				3,937,980
		<i>Share of the overall provision for portfolio variation:</i>		
		Balance brought forward from 1998	189,369	
		Allocation in 1999	<u>4,276</u>	
				193,645
		International Committee of the Red Cross, current account		86,231
	4,217,856			4,217,856

RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR 1999

EXPENDITURE		RECEIPTS	
	Sfr		Sfr
Allocations	81,299	Share of net revenue from the overall capital of the special funds	394,885
Audit fees	3,070		
Other expenses	1,862		
Share of increase of the overall provision	4,276		
	90,507		394,885

RESULT

Excess of receipts over expenditure in 1999	Sfr 304,378
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10. SPECIAL FUNDS

10.6 OMAR EL MUKTAR FUND

BALANCE SHEET AS AT DECEMBER 31, 1999

ASSETS		LIABILITIES	
	Sfr		Sfr
Share of the overall capital of the special funds	1,219,075	Initial capital	760,500
		<i>Share of the overall provision for portfolio variation:</i>	
		Balance brought forward from 1998	54,041
		Allocation in 1999	<u>1,236</u>
			55,277
		<i>Receipts and expenditure account:</i>	
		Balance brought forward from 1998	290,354
		Excess of receipts over expenditure in 1999	<u>112,084</u>
			402,438
		International Committee of the Red Cross, current account	860
	1,219,075		1,219,075

RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR 1999

EXPENDITURE		RECEIPTS	
	Sfr		Sfr
Audit fees	860	Share of net revenue from the overall capital of the special funds	114,180
Share of increase of the overall provision	1,236		
	2,096		114,180

RESULT

Excess of receipts over expenditure in 1999 for attribution	Sfr
	112,084

10. SPECIAL FUNDS

10.7 PAUL REUTER FUND

BALANCE SHEET AS AT DECEMBER 31, 1999

ASSETS		LIABILITIES	
	Sfr		Sfr
Share of the overall capital of the special funds	440,195	Initial capital	200,000
		<i>Receipts and expenditure account:</i>	
		Balance brought forward from 1998	181,661
		Excess of receipts over expenditure in 1999	<u>40,730</u>
			222,391
		Balance brought forward from 1998	17,059
		Allocation in 1999	<u>449</u>
			17,508
		International Committee of the Red Cross, current account	296
	440,195		440,195

RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR 1999

EXPENDITURE		RECEIPTS	
	Sfr		Sfr
Audit fees	296	Share of net revenue from the overall capital of the special funds	41,475
Share of increase of the overall provision	449		
	745		41,475

RESULT

Excess of receipts over expenditure in 1999	Sfr
	40,730

10. SPECIAL FUNDS

10.8 SPECIAL FUND FOR THE DISABLED

BALANCE SHEET AS AT DECEMBER 31, 1999

ASSETS		LIABILITIES	
	Sfr		Sfr
Share of the overall capital of the special funds	3,569,133	Initial capital	1,000,000
		<i>Share of the overall provision for portfolio variation:</i>	
		Balance brought forward from 1998	167,965
		Allocation in 1999	<u>3,610</u>
Action with temporary deficit financing			171,575
– Nicaragua project	26,644		
		<i>Receipts and expenditure account:</i>	
		Balance brought forward from 1998	1,786,833
		Excess of receipts over expenditure in 1999	<u>328,562</u>
			2,115,395
		<i>Reserved funds:</i>	
		Cambodia project	<u>200,000</u>
			200,000
		International Committee of the Red Cross, current account	108,807
	3,595,777		3,595,777

RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR 1999

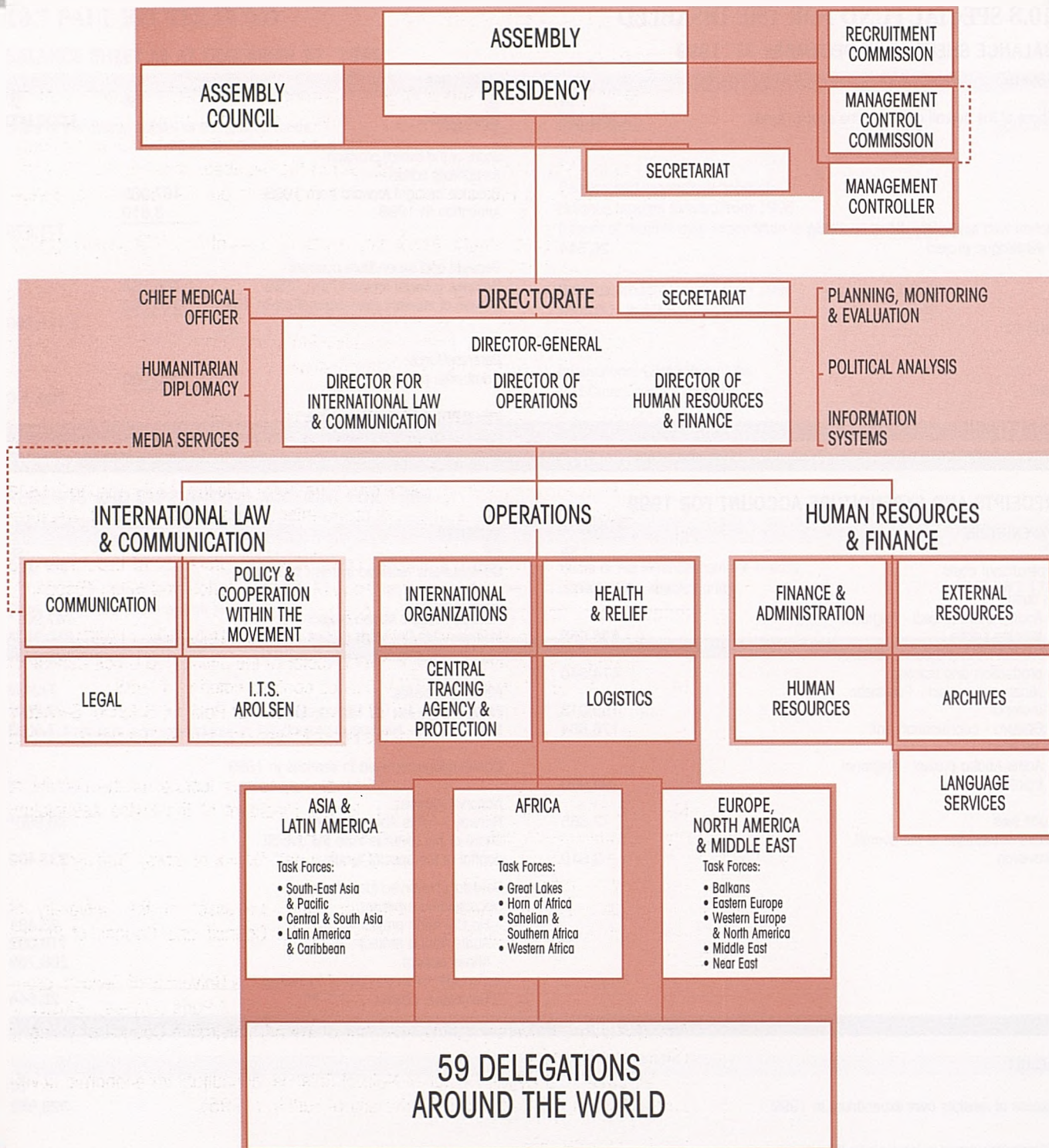
EXPENDITURE		RECEIPTS	
	Sfr		Sfr
Operational costs:		Contributions received in cash in 1999	
In cash		<i>Governments:</i>	
– Addis Ababa project - Regional training centre	856,950	Norway - Addis Ababa project	747,901*
– Ho Chi Minh project - Protheses production and training	474,540	Norway - Ho Chi Minh project	350,953*
– Nicaragua project - Prosthetic material	150,018	Norway - Coordination unit - Geneva	178,396*
– Geneva - coordination unit	178,684	<i>National Societies:</i>	
In services		Hong-Kong - Ho Chi Minh project	7,760*
– Addis Ababa project - Regional training centre	99,990	New Zealand - Nicaragua project	7,508*
Audit fees	2,565	Contributions received in services in 1999	
Share of increase of the overall provision	3,610	<i>National Societies:</i>	
		Norway - Addis Ababa project	99,990*
		Share of net revenue from the overall capital of the special funds	333,422
		<i>Reversal of reserved funds to cover accumulated expenses:</i>	
		– Ho Chi Minh project	23,484
		– Addis Ababa project	110,092
		– Mines appeal	208,769
		<i>Action with temporary deficit financing:</i>	
		– Nicaragua project	26,644
	1,766,357		2,094,919

RESULT

Excess of receipts over expenditure in 1999	Sfr
	328,562

* Contributions received in response to the Mines appeal

ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



ICRC DECISION-MAKING STRUCTURES¹

Assembly

The Assembly is the supreme governing body of the ICRC. It oversees all the ICRC's activities. It formulates policy, defines general objectives and institutional strategy, and approves the budget and accounts. It delegates certain of its responsibilities to the Assembly Council. Composed of the members of the ICRC, it is collegial in character. Its President and two Vice-Presidents are the President and Vice-Presidents of the ICRC.

Mr Cornelio Sommaruga, President, Doctor of Laws of Zurich University, (member of the Committee since 1986).

Mrs Anne Petitpierre, Vice-President, Doctor of Laws, barrister, Professor at the Law Faculty of the University of Geneva, (1987).

Mr Eric Roethlisberger, permanent Vice-President (from 1995 to 31.7.1999) Doctor of Political Science of the Graduate Institute of International Studies in Geneva, (1994).

Mr Jacques Forster, permanent Vice-President (from 1.8.1999), Doctor of Economics, Professor at the Graduate Institute of Development Studies in Geneva (1988).

Mrs Renée Guisan, General Secretary of the "Institut de la Vie internationale", head of medico-social institutions, member of the International Association for Volunteer Effort, (1986).

Mr Paolo Bernasconi, Bachelor of Laws, barrister, professor of fiscal law and economic criminal law at the Universities of St. Gallen, Zurich and Milan (Bocconi), former Public Prosecutor in Lugano, (1987).

Mrs Liselotte Kraus-Gurny, Doctor of Laws of Zurich University, (1988).

Ms Susy Bruschweiler, nurse, former Director of the Swiss Red Cross College of Nursing in Aarau, Chairwoman of S-V Service contract catering, (1988).

Mr Jacques Moreillon, Bachelor of Laws, Doctor of Political Science, Secretary General of the World Organization of the Scout Movement, former Director General at the ICRC, (1988).

Mr Rodolphe de Haller, Doctor of Medicine, former lecturer at the Faculty of Medicine of the University of Geneva, former President of the Swiss Association against Tuberculosis and Lung Diseases, (1991).

Mr Daniel Thürer, Master of Laws (Cambridge), Doctor of Laws, Professor at the University of Zurich, (1991).

Mr Jean-François Aubert, Doctor of Laws, Professor at the University of Neuchâtel, former member of the Swiss National Council and Council of States, (1993).

Mr Georges-André Cuendet, Bachelor of Laws of the University of Geneva, graduate of the Institute of Political Studies of the University of Paris (France), Master of Arts of Stanford University (USA), member of the Administrative Council of Cologny (Switzerland), (1993).

Mr Ernst A. Brugger, Doctor of Natural Science, consultant for economic development issues, Professor at the University of Zurich, (1995).

¹ As at 31 December 1999.

Mr Jean-Roger Bonvin, Doctor of Economics of the University of St. Gallen, president of the Development Centre of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) in Paris, (1996).

Mr Jakob Nüesch, Agricultural engineer, Doctor of Technical Science of the Federal Institute of Technology of Zurich, Professor of microbiology at the University of Basle, former President of the Federal Institute of Technology of Zurich, (1997).

Mr Peter Arbenz, graduate in Economics, former Swiss Federal Council Delegate for Refugee Affairs, Chairman of the Zurich branch of the Swiss Red Cross, consultant for Strategic and Enterprise Development, (1983-1987, 1998).

Mr André von Moos, Doctor of Laws, Bachelor of Economics, SMP certificate of the Harvard Business School, former Chairman of the von Moos Group, industrialist, (1998).

Mr Olivier Vodoz, Bachelor of Laws, barrister, former Deputy in the Geneva Grand Conseil and former President of the Conseil d'État of the Republic and Canton of Geneva, (1998).

Mrs Gabrielle Nanchen, Bachelor of Social Science from the University of Lausanne School of Social Studies, former member of the Swiss National Council, (1998).

Mr Jean de Courten, Bachelor of Laws, former delegate and former Director of Operations at the ICRC, (1998).

Mr Jean-Philippe Assal, Doctor of Medicine, Professor of Medicine, head of the Division for Instruction in the Treatment of Chronic Diseases at the Faculty of Medicine of the University of Geneva, (1999).

Ms Jacqueline Avril, Doctor of Medicine of the University of Geneva, general practitioner, member of the Board and Secretary of the Council of the Medical Association of the Canton of Geneva, (1999).

Mr Jakob Kellenberger, Ph. D. of the University of Zurich, former Swiss Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, (1999), President-elect.

HONORARY MEMBERS: **Mr Jean Pictet**, Honorary Vice-President, **Ms Denise Bindschedler-Robert**, **Mr Max Daetwyler**, **Mr Josef Feldmann**, **Mr Athos Gallino**, **Mr Henry Huguenin**, **Mr Rudolf Jäckli**, **Mr Pierre Keller**, **Mr Robert Kohler**, **Mr Pierre Languetin**, **Mr Olivier Long**, **Mr U. G. Middendorp**, **Mr Marcel A. Naville**, **Mr Richard Pestalozzi**, **Ms Francesca Pometta**, **Mr Raymond R. Probst**, **Mr Alain Rossier**, **Mr Dietrich Schindler**, **Mr Hans Peter Tschudi**, **Dr Alfredo Vannotti**.

Assembly Council

The Assembly Council is a subsidiary body of the Assembly, to which the latter delegates certain of its powers. It prepares the Assembly's activities and takes decisions on matters within its competence, in particular strategic options relating to general policy on funding, personnel and communication. It serves as a link between the Directorate and the Assembly, to which it reports regularly. Composed of five members elected by the Assembly, it is chaired by the President of the ICRC.

Mr Cornelio Sommaruga,
President

Mr Eric Roethlisberger,
permanent Vice-President (until 31.7.1999)

Mr Jacques Forster,
permanent Vice-President (from 1.8.1999)

Mr Ernst A. Brugger,
member of the Committee

Mrs Liselotte Kraus-Gurny,
member of the Committee

Mr Jakob Nüesch,
member of the Committee (from 1.8.1999)

Directorate

The Directorate is the executive body of the ICRC, responsible for applying and ensuring application of the general objectives and institutional strategy defined by the Assembly or the Assembly Council. The Directorate is also responsible for the smooth running of the ICRC and for the efficiency of its staff as a whole. It is composed of the Director-General and the three Directors, all appointed by the Assembly. It is chaired by the Director-General.

Mr Paul Grossrieder, Director-General

Mr Jean-Daniel Tauxe, Director of Operations

Mr Jacques Stroun, Director of Human Resources and Finance

Mr François Bugnion, Director for International Law and Communication

INTERNATIONAL ADVISERS

Since 1984, the ICRC has held two meetings a year with a dozen leading international figures selected for a four-year period to advise it on the application of international humanitarian law, on operational matters and on the ICRC's place within the international community.

In 1999, the fourth group of international advisers met in March and September. Its discussions centred on the results of the campaign to mark the 50th anniversary of the Geneva Conventions, preparations for the 27th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, the situation in the Balkans, the ICRC's position on terrorism, questions relating to the implementation of the Seville Agreement, the future of the ICRC and its policy of openness.

Advisers for the period 1996-1999

Ambassador Vitaly Ivanovich Churkin, Ambassador to Ottawa, former Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs (Russian Federation).

Dr Günther Gilleßen, Professor of Journalism at the University of Mainz, former editor in charge of international affairs with the Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung (Germany).

Ambassador Yoshio Hatano, President, Foreign Press Center, Tokyo, former Permanent Representative to the UN in Geneva and then in New York (Japan).

Judge Rosalyn Higgins, Judge at the International Court of Justice in The Hague (United Kingdom).

Major-General (ret.) John A. MacInnis, former Commander of the Canadian contingent of the UN forces in the former Yugoslavia (Canada).

Mr Jorge Madrazo, Chief Public Prosecutor (Mexico).

Mr Pedro Nikken, President of the Inter-American Institute of Human Rights, San José, Costa Rica (Venezuela).

Ambassador Herbert S. Okun, Member, International Narcotics Control Board, Visiting Lecturer, Yale Law School (United States of America).

Ambassador Mohamed Sahnoun, UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy to Africa, Special Adviser to the Director-General of UNESCO (Algeria).

Mr Bradman Weerakoon, former Presidential Adviser on International Relations (Sri Lanka).

CICR BIBLIOTHEQUE



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MISSION

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) is an impartial, neutral and independent organization whose exclusively humanitarian mission is to protect the lives and dignity of victims of war and internal violence and to provide them with assistance. It directs and coordinates the international relief activities conducted by the Movement in situations of conflict. It also endeavours to prevent suffering by promoting and strengthening humanitarian law and universal humanitarian principles.

Established in 1863, the ICRC is at the origin of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.

ICRC ANNUAL REPORT 1999



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