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

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

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

All figures in this report are in Swiss francs (CHF). In 2006, the average exchange rate was CHF 1.2580 to USD 1, and CHF 1.5728 to EUR 1.
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<td>A Additional Protocol I</td>
<td>Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, and Relating to the Protection of Victims of International Armed Conflicts (Protocol I), 8 June 1977</td>
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<td>Additional Protocol II Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, and Relating to the Protection of Victims of Non-International Armed Conflicts (Protocol II), 8 June 1977</td>
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<td>Additional Protocol III Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, and Relating to the Adoption of an Additional Distinctive Emblem (Protocol III), 8 December 2005</td>
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<td>1977 Additional Protocols Additional Protocols I and II</td>
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<td>AIDS</td>
<td>acquired immune deficiency syndrome</td>
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<td>C CHF</td>
<td>Swiss francs</td>
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<tr>
<td>F Fundamental Principles</td>
<td>Fundamental Principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement: humanity, impartiality, neutrality, independence, voluntary service, unity, universality</td>
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<td>G 1949 Geneva Conventions</td>
<td>Convention (I) for the Amelioration of the Condition of the Wounded and Sick in Armed Forces in the Field, 12 August 1949</td>
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<td>Convention (II) for the Amelioration of the Condition of Wounded, Sick and Shipwrecked Members of Armed Forces at Sea, 12 August 1949</td>
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<td>Convention (III) relative to the Treatment of Prisoners of War, 12 August 1949</td>
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<tr>
<td>HF</td>
<td>high frequency</td>
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<tr>
<td>HIV</td>
<td>human immunodeficiency virus</td>
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<td>I</td>
<td>ICRC</td>
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<td>IDPs</td>
<td>internally displaced people</td>
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<td>International Federation</td>
<td>The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, founded in 1919, works on the basis of the Fundamental Principles, carrying out relief operations in aid of the victims of natural disasters and health emergencies, poverty brought about by socio-economic crises, and refugees; it combines this with development work to strengthen the capacities of its member National Societies.</td>
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<tr>
<td>IHL</td>
<td>international humanitarian law</td>
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<td>IOM</td>
<td>International Organization for Migration</td>
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<td>Ottawa Convention</td>
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<td>Safer Access approach</td>
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<td>San Remo</td>
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<td>Seville Agreement</td>
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<td>Study on customary international humanitarian law</td>
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<td>UNDP</td>
<td>United Nations Development Programme</td>
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<td>UNESCO</td>
<td>United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization</td>
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<tr>
<td>OHCHR</td>
<td>Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights</td>
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<td>UNHCR</td>
<td>Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees</td>
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<tr>
<td>UNICEF</td>
<td>United Nations Children's Fund</td>
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| V | VHF | very high frequency |

| W | WFP | World Food Programme |
| WHO | World Health Organization |
message from the president

In 2006, conflicts continued to rage in many countries, imposing unspeakable suffering on the children, women and men caught up in them. The humanitarian situation of the people affected by armed conflict significantly deteriorated in many contexts. One such example is Somalia, which suffered from the successive effects of drought, intensified fighting and floods, followed by a renewed upsurge in fighting late in the year. In addition, millions of people saw their lives affected by violence in the Middle East and Sudan, tens of thousands were displaced and many killed in Sri Lanka, and others had to endure more intense fighting in Afghanistan, to give but a few examples.

The ICRC remains committed to responding rapidly and efficiently to the humanitarian needs of people affected by armed conflict or by a natural disaster occurring in a conflict area. In 2006, this commitment led it to issue seven budget extensions for six operations, on top of the record Emergency Appeals for the year, and ICRC expenditure reached its highest level in half a century.

Hostilities can explode without warning, as in Lebanon in the summer of 2006; natural disasters strike unexpectedly and their effects are multiplied in war-torn countries such as Somalia. In the face of such unpredictable emergencies, the ICRC attaches great importance to its ability to deploy rapidly in the field. It was operational south of the Litani River during the hostilities in Lebanon and, in cooperation with the Lebanese Red Cross Society, concentrated on responding to the medical needs of war-wounded civilians and fighters. Further strengthening this rapid response capacity is a central element of the Institutional Strategy for 2007–2010, which the ICRC adopted in 2006.

As an organization that aims to provide an effective response and thus benefit all victims of armed conflict and other situations of violence, the ICRC needs to have its mandate and activities accepted by all parties. To keep humanitarian action neutral and independent, and to ensure that the ICRC is neither used in nor perceived as being part of a wider political agenda, it is essential that this acceptance be gained and maintained. The ICRC strives to develop contacts with all parties to a conflict, whatever their aspirations or behaviour. This is often a challenge, however, particularly in contexts where the parties are continuously fragmenting, as has been the case in Darfur, or are difficult to identify, as in Iraq. To this end, throughout 2006, the ICRC maintained a presence in some 230 delegations and offices in 80 countries. Staffed by nearly 12,000 dedicated men and women, they constitute the network that enables the ICRC to be in direct contact with the people it strives to assist and protect, and to maintain unique operational coverage in conflict areas. This commitment goes hand in hand with calculated risks, and despite all its efforts to increase the security of its operations, three staff members were killed in 2006, in Haiti, Senegal and Sudan – deaths that the ICRC deeply deplores. The ICRC’s worldwide presence is backed by the headquarters in Geneva. In 2006, the ICRC Assembly appointed a new director for International Law and Cooperation within the Movement and reappointed the four other directors for a new four-year term of office.

In its Institutional Strategy for 2007-2010, the ICRC underlines its resolve to adopt an approach that will allow it to meet humanitarian needs resulting from conflict, while placing special emphasis on further developing its professional expertise in the fields of protection and health. It endeavours to alleviate the suffering of all categories of victims without discrimination of any kind, giving priority to the most urgent cases of distress. In 2006, more than 2.3 million people benefited from ICRC-supported health care facilities. Over 65,000 operations were performed in ICRC-supported hospitals, and close to 142,000 people received services in physical rehabilitation centres run or supported by the ICRC. Water, sanitation and construction projects met the needs of close to 16 million people. The ICRC distributed food to more than 2.6 million IDPs, returnees and vulnerable residents, and household and hygiene items to more than 4 million, while 3.4 million people benefited from sustainable food-production programmes or micro-economic initiatives. Overall, ICRC assistance operations benefited 3.5 million IDPs and returnees in 19 countries. The ICRC visited or assisted close to half a million people in more than 2,500 places of detention. It enabled families to keep in touch with their loved ones through the collection or distribution of more than 630,000 Red Cross messages.

The ICRC is committed to effective humanitarian coordination with all those active in the field, but first and foremost with its natural partners in the Movement. In this regard, it is delighted that the Movement achieved greater universality by welcoming Israel’s Magen David Adom and the Palestine Red Crescent Society following the 29th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent. In 2006, the ICRC ran capacity-building
programmes with National Societies in some 140 countries in the fields of IHL promotion, conflict preparedness and response, or restoring family links. In the coming years, the ICRC will further invest in its relationship with National Societies operating in conflict areas.

The ICRC promotes close cooperation and coordination between humanitarian practitioners. It espouses an action-oriented and reality-based approach that builds on complementarity and strives to make the most of each organization’s comparative advantage.

In 2006, IHL attracted attention in many different ways. Unfortunately, the law continued to be violated in many conflicts. Civilians not participating in the hostilities were deliberately targeted or made to bear the brunt of the fighting. Some violations were perpetrated in the public eye, others remain unknown. But each violation means that a life has been needlessly wrecked. This lack of respect is certainly the biggest challenge faced by IHL. The ICRC spares no effort to improve respect for the law – in particular by reminding the parties to armed conflicts of their obligations under IHL, promoting the adoption of domestic legislation to implement the law’s rules, and voicing public concern. It will nevertheless require strong political determination from all belligerents and all the States party to the 1949 Geneva Conventions to ensure that IHL is better respected.

To confirm the relevance of IHL in contemporary armed conflicts and to improve the protection of the people affected, the ICRC intensified its dialogue on IHL with States, international organizations and legal experts. It worked on clarifying the rules applicable to private security and private military companies and key concepts of IHL such as direct participation in hostilities. In its statement at the Third Review Conference of the 1980 Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons, the ICRC urged States to begin developing a new international instrument to comprehensively and effectively address the problem of cluster munitions. It also organized conferences and workshops on Islam and IHL in Kabul (Afghanistan), Qom (Islamic Republic of Iran), Fez (Morocco) and Dar es Salaam (United Republic of Tanzania) that brought together experts on IHL and prominent scholars of Islamic jurisprudence. These forums facilitated informed debate on the rules and principles of the conduct of hostilities and the protection of victims of war in the light of Islamic values and the provisions of Islamic jurisprudence (*fiqh*).

There were positive developments for the protection of victims of armed conflicts in 2006. The ICRC welcomes in particular the first ratifications of Additional Protocol III, on the red crystal emblem, and its subsequent entry into force on 14 January 2007. In December 2006, the UN General Assembly adopted the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance. This instrument contains crucial measures for preventing enforced disappearances, minimizing the risk of torture and death, and supporting families if disappearance occurs. In August 2006, with the accession of two more States, the Geneva Conventions achieved universal acceptance, a world first in modern times.

The universality of the Geneva Conventions is on a par with the ICRC’s global reach. As the following pages clearly show, the organization remains resolutely committed to alleviating the plight of all conflict victims, wherever they may be.
ICRC OPERATIONAL FRAMEWORK

The ICRC endeavours to respond to the humanitarian needs engendered by today’s complex armed conflicts and other situations of violence in the most timely, humane and professional way possible. Each situation thus requires thorough analysis, a sensitive but objective assessment of the needs and human suffering, and the design and implementation of specific and efficient humanitarian responses.

Today more than ever, situations have to be considered holistically, in a way that integrates local, regional and global elements and takes into account the broad range of problems and needs of the populations the ICRC wants to help. It is important as well to ensure the coherence of ICRC activities both in the medium and long term, as well as between comparable contexts.

To this end, the ICRC works with a dynamic network of multidisciplinary teams composed of both specialized and non-specialized staff who are led and coordinated by a competent management with clear policies and priorities. Effective monitoring and critical evaluation, drawing on lessons learned from past experience, are also crucial to this process, as is coordination with the numerous actors present on the increasingly complex and critical humanitarian scene.

The ICRC operational framework is characterized by a diverse range of activities requiring varied skills and expertise, a focus on different target populations, and the strategic use of various modes of action at different levels of intervention.

MODES OF ACTION

The modes of action used by the ICRC depend on the situation, the problems encountered and the objectives to be achieved.

▶ Persuasion: confidential representations addressed to the authorities and aimed at convincing them to enhance respect for IHL and/or other fundamental rules protecting persons in situations of violence and to take measures which improve the circumstances of people affected by such situations.

▶ Support: activities aimed at providing assistance to the authorities so that they are better able to carry out their functions and fulfil their responsibilities.

▶ Direct services/substitution: activities to provide direct services to people in need, often in place of authorities who are not able or not willing to do so.

▶ Mobilization: activities aimed at prevailing on third parties to influence the behaviour or action of the authorities, to support them, or to provide direct services to people in need.

▶ Denunciation (resorted to by the ICRC only in exceptional circumstances and under strict conditions): public declarations regarding violations of IHL or other fundamental rules protecting persons in situations of violence committed by specific actors, for the purpose of bringing a halt to such violations or preventing their reoccurrence.

LEVELS OF INTERVENTION

The activities carried out under the ICRC’s programmes are conducted at the following complementary levels to reach common objectives in aid of the affected populations:

▶ preventing or alleviating the immediate effects of an emerging or established pattern of abuse or problem (responsive action);

▶ restoring dignified living conditions through rehabilitation, restitution and reparation (remedial action);

▶ fostering a social, cultural, institutional and legal environment conducive to full respect for IHL and/or other fundamental rules protecting persons in situations of violence (environment-building action).

RESULT-BASED MANAGEMENT

At least once a year, on the basis of an analysis of the given situation and of the humanitarian issues, the ICRC defines objectives and plans of action for the coming year for each context in which it operates. The plans of action describe how the ICRC aims to work towards the objectives in question. Changes in situations and humanitarian issues may require objectives and plans of action to be revised during the year. Objectives and plans of action are organ-
The ICRC works according to the following definitions of the terminology used, adopted on the basis of a common understanding in existing literature:

- **input**: resources which enable a person/organization to do something;
- **activity**: any action or process;
- **output**: the products, capital goods and services which are generated by an activity, including changes resulting from the activity that are expected to lead to the achievement of outcomes;
- **outcome**: the likely, or achieved, medium-term (1–5 year) effects of the output of one or several activities or interventions;
- **impact**: positive and negative, primary and secondary, long-term effects produced by interventions (a combination of factors), directly or indirectly, intended or unintended.

The ICRC, as any other actor, is likely only to contribute to an impact. Many factors will come into play: some made, other occurring naturally.

**TARGET POPULATIONS**

In setting its objectives, the ICRC has drawn up a standard list of seven target groups, divided into two broad categories. These are defined as follows:

1. Affected populations/persons are individuals or segments of the population suffering the direct and/or indirect effects of a confirmed or emerging situation of armed conflict or violence, who do not or no longer take a direct part in the hostilities or violence. The aim of ICRC action for such people is to ensure that they are respected and protected and to alleviate the suffering caused by the situation, in accordance with the provisions of IHL and internationally accepted standards. The ICRC distinguishes between three different groups of people:

   - **civilians**: all people who do not take a direct part in hostilities or violence but whose physical or mental integrity and dignity are either threatened or affected during a conflict or another situation of violence;
   - **people deprived of their freedom**: all individuals deprived of their freedom in connection with a situation of armed conflict or violence, such as prisoners of war, civilian internees and security detainees;
   - **the wounded and sick**: people injured or suffering from disease in a situation of armed conflict or violence.

2. Then there are **individuals or institutions** that, because of their roles and functions, may directly or indirectly take action to curb, avoid or put an end to violations of IHL or other fundamental rules protecting persons in situations of violence, and protect or aid those affected when humanitarian problems arise. The ICRC endeavours to persuade them to take action, in the manner most conducive to promoting full respect for those fundamental rules and to ensuring that the people in need receive protection and assistance. This second broad category comprises the following:

   - **the authorities**: political decision-makers (civil, administrative or legislative authorities, whether official or unofficial);
   - **armed forces and other weapon bearers**: armed, police and security forces, and all State and non-State actors involved in armed violence;
   - **civil society**: the public at large, representatives of civil society or other actors exerting influence, such as the media, associations of various kinds, NGOs, religious authorities or opinion-makers, economic entities, young people, university students and academic institutions;
   - **the Movement**: besides the ICRC, the Movement comprises the National Societies and their International Federation. There is a National Society in almost every country in the world, carrying out humanitarian services for the benefit of the community. For the ICRC, the existence of a local partner in each country is a valuable asset and one of the distinguishing features of cooperation within the Movement.

**Particular concerns**

The ICRC devotes particular attention to certain individual characteristics and situations which further increase vulnerability. As the civilian population becomes increasingly caught up in armed conflicts, specific problems may engender or exacerbate vulnerability among women, children, the elderly or minorities.

As warring parties fight for territorial control, more and more civilians are displaced. Forced displacement could aim to weaken enemy forces by targeting communities considered to be supportive of them, or to facilitate appropriation of property or access to natural resources. **Internally displaced people** are those compelled to flee their homes, leaving most of their personal belongings behind, often to resettle in over-populated areas in conditions of extreme poverty, without gainful employment and seldom having the benefit of services such as a clean water supply, sewage systems, health care or education.

**Children** are not spared in conflict; they not only represent a large segment of the population but are also more vulnerable than adults. They should benefit both from the general protection guaranteed by law as people not taking a direct part in hostilities and from specific protection as a particularly vulnerable group (children are covered by 25 articles in the 1949 Geneva Conventions and their 1977 Additional Protocols). Yet three out of every five war victims assisted by the ICRC are children. They are often the powerless witnesses of atrocities committed against their relatives. Many of them are killed, wounded or imprisoned, torn from their families, forcibly recruited into combat, compelled to flee or left without even an identity.

**Women and girls** mostly experience armed conflict as civilians, and as such are often exposed to acts of violence. Such acts include...
death or injury from indiscriminate attacks and mine explosions, but also direct assaults. Sexual violence, including rape, is widespread and often used as a method of warfare against the civilian population, with women and girls as the main victims. In addition, the loss of male relatives, deprivation of access to the basic means of survival and health care makes women and girls vulnerable. It is therefore imperative to understand in which way, owing to their status and role in a given context, women and girls are affected by a situation of violence and how best humanitarian programmes can contribute to alleviating their plight.

As the ICRC aims to provide a comprehensive response to all populations affected by armed conflict or violence, neither its programmes (protection, assistance, prevention and cooperation with National Societies) nor their corresponding budgets are designed in such a way as to cater solely to one or the other of the specific groups described above. Donors wishing to help the ICRC manage contributions to its programmes in the most efficient way possible are referred to the proposed criteria for levels of earmarking set out in the “Contributions” section of this chapter.

In late 2001, the ICRC launched the “Missing” project to heighten awareness of the tragic fate of people who are unaccounted for as a result of armed conflict and other situations of violence and of the anguish suffered by their families. In the wake of the International Conference of Governmental and Non-Governmental Experts on the missing and their families, convened by the ICRC in Geneva in February 2003, and the pledge made at the 28th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent in December 2003, operational guidelines have been established to prevent disappearances and to respond to the needs of the families left behind. They are currently being implemented on the ground by the relevant ICRC delegations worldwide. Moreover, the ICRC continues to heighten concern about the issue of missing persons among governments, NGOs, UN agencies and relevant segments of civil society and to emphasize the importance of addressing and ultimately resolving the issue.

**PROGRAMME DESCRIPTIONS**

**PROTECTION**

Programmes in this area cover all activities designed to ensure protection of the victims of armed conflicts and other situations of violence. The beneficiaries are resident and displaced civilians, people deprived of their freedom (in particular prisoners of war, security detainees, internees and other vulnerable people), people separated from their relatives by conflict, and missing people and their families.

Protection is the mainstay of ICRC activities. It lies at the heart of the ICRC’s mandate and IHL. As a neutral and independent humanitarian organization, the ICRC seeks to ensure that all the parties to a conflict and all authorities provide individuals and groups with the full respect and protection that are due to them under IHL and other fundamental rules protecting persons in situations of violence. In response to violations of these rules, the ICRC endeavours, as much as possible through constructive and confidential dialogue, to encourage the authorities concerned to take corrective action and to prevent any recurrence. Delegations monitor the situation and the treatment of the civilian population and persons deprived of their freedom, discuss their findings with the authorities concerned, recommend measures and conduct follow-up activities.

**Respect for persons deprived of their freedom**

The objective of the ICRC’s activities for persons deprived of their freedom is purely humanitarian, namely to ensure that their physical and mental integrity is fully respected and that their conditions of detention are in keeping with IHL and/or internationally recognized standards. As circumstances dictate, the ICRC strives to prevent forced disappearances or extrajudicial executions, ill-treatment and failure to respect fundamental judicial guarantees, and, whenever necessary, takes action to improve conditions of detention. This involves in particular:

- negotiating with the authorities to obtain access to persons deprived of their freedom wherever they may be held, in accordance with procedures that guarantee the effectiveness and consistency of ICRC action;
- visiting all detainees, assessing their conditions of detention and identifying any shortcomings and humanitarian needs;
- monitoring individual detainees (for specific protection, medical or other purposes);
- maintaining family links (such as facilitating family visits or forwarding RCMs);
- under specific conditions, providing material and medical relief supplies to detainees or engaging in cooperation on specific projects with the detaining authorities;
- fostering a confidential but meaningful dialogue with the authorities at all levels regarding any problems of a humanitarian nature that may arise.

Visits to places of detention are carried out by the ICRC in accordance with strict conditions:

- delegates must be provided with full and unimpeded access to all detainees falling within the ICRC’s mandate and to all places where they are held;
- delegates must be able to hold private interviews with the detainees of their choice;
- delegates must be able to repeat their visits;
- detainees falling within the ICRC’s mandate must be notified individually to the ICRC, and the ICRC must be able to draw up lists of their names.

**Respect for civilians**

Protection activities for the civilian population are intended to ensure that individuals and groups not or no longer taking a direct part in hostilities are fully respected and protected, in accordance with IHL or other fundamental rules protecting persons in situations of violence. This involves in particular:

- engaging in dialogue with the authorities to obtain access to individuals or groups needing protection and/or assistance;
- deploying delegates in the field, assessing the living conditions of these individuals or groups and their means of subsistence, analysing cases of abuse and violations and identifying any shortcomings or needs arising from the violations;
- monitoring individuals who are particularly vulnerable;
- establishing and maintaining a dialogue – preventive and corrective – with the relevant parties, including civil and military authorities at all levels regarding humanitarian issues, and reminding them of their legal obligations.

**Restoring family links**

These activities aim to restore or maintain contact between members of families separated by armed conflict or other situations...
of violence, including persons deprived of their freedom, with a view to relieving their mental anguish. This involves in particular:

- forwarding family news (through various means, such as RCMs, radio broadcasts, the telephone and the Internet) via the worldwide Red Cross and Red Crescent network (National Societies and ICRC delegations);
- collecting information on detentions, disappearances and deaths, collecting tracing requests from the families of missing people and submitting them for clarification to the relevant authorities;
- organizing repatriations and family reunifications;
- facilitating family visits to detainees or across front lines;
- issuing ICRC travel documents for people who, owing to a conflict, do not or no longer have identity papers and are about to be repatriated or resettled in a third country.

**Missing persons**

Activities for missing persons are intended to shed light on the fate or whereabouts of people who are unaccounted for as a consequence of armed conflict or other situations of violence, to alleviate the anguish of their relatives. This involves establishing and supporting mechanisms to facilitate dialogue between the authorities and the families of missing people in order to speed up the tracing process, which can include the exhumation and identification of human remains, and responding to the needs of the families left behind.

**ASSISTANCE**

Assistance programmes are designed to preserve or restore acceptable living conditions for people affected by armed conflict or other situations of violence, to enable them to maintain an adequate standard of living in their respective social and cultural context until their basic needs are met by the authorities or through their own means. The beneficiaries are primarily resident or displaced civilians, vulnerable groups such as minorities and the families of people who are unaccounted for, the sick and the wounded (both military and civilian) and people deprived of their freedom.

Assistance activities are based on the “health pyramid” approach, whereby priorities are set in such a way as to reduce as rapidly and effectively as possible the risks of disease and death among the populations concerned. The health pyramid shows that precedence must be given to ensuring access to food, water and other vital necessities, and to restoring satisfactory hygiene conditions through the adoption of public health measures. Assistance must not lead to dependency. The ICRC’s strategy aims to restore self-sufficiency, which helps those affected to preserve their dignity.

**Economic security**

Economic security programmes are designed to ensure that households and communities have access to the services and resources required to meet their essential economic needs, as defined by their physical condition and social and cultural environment. In practice, this translates into three different types of intervention:

- **relief interventions**: to protect lives and livelihoods by providing persons in need with the goods and/or services essential for their survival when they can no longer obtain these through their own means;
- **production interventions**: to protect or enhance a household’s or community’s asset base – its means of production – so that it can maintain or recover its livelihood;
- **structural interventions**: to protect livelihoods by influencing processes, institutions and policies that have a direct impact on a target population’s capacity to maintain its livelihood over time (such as agricultural or livestock services).

**Water and habitat**

Water and habitat programmes are designed to ensure access to safe water (for both drinking and household use) and to a safe living environment.

In situations of acute crisis, infrastructure may have been damaged by fighting and basic services may not work or be inaccessible. People may be forced to leave their homes to look for water in a hostile environment. By monitoring the situation and implementing projects when and where necessary, in both urban and rural contexts, the ICRC ensures access to water and safe environmental sanitation conditions, and promotes basic health care by taking emergency action and supporting existing facilities.

In emerging crises, chronic crises and post-crisis situations, the priority is to support and strengthen existing structures through initiatives taken in conjunction with the authorities and/or through specific programmes that meet the needs of the population in a viable, sustainable manner.

**Health services**

Health-related activities are designed to give people affected by conflict access to appropriate preventive and curative health care that meets universally recognized standards, a task which entails assisting local or regional health services and sometimes stepping in for them on a temporary basis. This involves in particular:

- implementing activities, supporting existing structures, organizations and programmes or mobilizing others in order to foster access to health care, especially in the following key areas: health in detention; pre-hospital care (first aid and medical evacuations); emergency hospital care; hospital management; basic health care and support for victims of sexual violence;
- negotiating with the authorities in order to guarantee safe access to quality health care for the affected population and a safe working environment for medical personnel.

**Physical rehabilitation**

Physical rehabilitation projects are designed to provide physically disabled people with prosthetic/orthotic appliances so that they can recover their mobility and play an active role in society. This involves in particular:

- manufacturing prosthetic/orthotic appliances and components;
- providing national technicians with theoretical and practical training in accordance with recognized standards;
- engaging in dialogue with the authorities, especially on questions concerning the handover and continuation of projects.

**PREVENTION**

Preventive action covers all pre-emptive steps taken to limit violence and to prevent human suffering, by influencing the attitudes and behaviour of those who determine the plight of people affected by armed conflicts or other situations of violence, and/or who can influence the ICRC’s ability to gain access to these persons and to operate efficiently in their favour. This covers a range of activities that are carried out as appropriate both in peacetime and in times of war.
Implementation of IHL
Implementation activities aim to promote the universal ratification of humanitarian treaties and the adoption by States of legislative, administrative and practical measures and mechanisms to give effect to these instruments at national level. It is also important to ascertain that proposals to develop domestic laws do not undermine existing IHL norms. Implementation activities also aim to foster compliance with IHL during armed conflicts and to ensure that national authorities, international organizations, the armed forces and other bearers of weapons correctly understand the law applicable in such situations. This involves in particular:

- promoting humanitarian treaties among the relevant authorities by making representations to governments, providing training in IHL and drafting technical documents and guidelines to further national implementation;
- providing technical advice and support for the implementation of IHL, undertaking studies and carrying out technical assessments of the compatibility of national legislation with this body of law;
- translating existing IHL and human rights texts and materials into different languages;
- encouraging and helping authorities to integrate IHL into the doctrine, education and training of national armed, police and security forces, and into the training and education programmes for future leaders and opinion-makers in universities and schools.

Development of IHL
These activities aim to promote the adoption of new treaties to make IHL more effective and to respond to needs which arise as a result of technological progress and the changing nature of armed conflict. At the same time, the ICRC furthers the development of customary international humanitarian law by encouraging constructive State practice. This involves in particular:

- taking part in meetings of experts and diplomatic conferences held to develop new treaties or other legal instruments, and formulating bilateral and multilateral initiatives to promote their acceptance by governments and relevant organizations;
- monitoring new developments, carrying out studies, organizing meetings of experts and drafting proposals.

Communication
The following complementary communication approaches constitute a key component of preventive action and facilitate ICRC access to the victims of armed conflict and violence:

- public communication which aims to inform and mobilize key stakeholders on priority general humanitarian issues and to promote greater understanding of and support for IHL and the work of the ICRC;
- processes to scan the humanitarian environment at the global, regional and local levels with a view to identifying, understanding and addressing perceptions and issues having an impact on the ICRC’s ability to operate;
- developing and implementing strategies to influence the attitudes and actions of other political authorities or weapon bearers;
- developing communication strategies and tools to mobilize key target groups – such as leaders and opinion-makers – in favour of respect for IHL and acceptance of ICRC action on behalf of victims of armed conflict;
- supporting the implementation of the youth education programme – Exploring Humanitarian Law – to help young people embrace humanitarian principles and the social and legal norms intended to protect life and human dignity;
- reinforcing links with academic circles to consolidate a network of IHL experts and developing partnerships with institutes and research centres specializing in IHL;
- responding to public information requests on humanitarian norms, issues and action in situations of armed conflict.

Mine action and other weapons issues
The ICRC devotes particular attention to promoting measures to restrict or prohibit the use of weapons that have indiscriminate effects or cause superfluous injury or unnecessary suffering. This includes promoting the application of existing IHL norms on the use of weapons and the development, when appropriate, of additional norms in response to the field realities witnessed by the ICRC or the emergence of new technology.

The ICRC, working closely with National Societies, also implements preventive mine activities in situations where mines and other explosive remnants of war represent a danger to the population. These programmes are adapted to each individual situation and can comprise a range of activities that seek to define the problem, facilitate a flexible and effective response and take into account the activities of others in this field.

This involves in particular:

- making representations to governments and other weapon bearers;
- providing an IHL perspective on weapons issues in national and international forums;
- holding meetings of military, legal, technical and foreign affairs experts to consider, inter alia, issues relating to emerging weapons technology and the impact in humanitarian terms of the use of certain weapons;
- promoting the full and faithful implementation of treaties such as the Ottawa Convention and the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons, and providing IHL perspectives in meetings on relevant arms treaties;
- providing policy guidance and technical support on mines and other arms issues to National Societies and representing the Movement internationally on these matters;
- attending meetings with key mine action organizations that contribute to the development of mine action policy, methodologies and systems;
- planning and implementing preventive mine activities, often in cooperation with National Societies, to limit the physical, social and economic impact of mines and other explosive remnants of war.

COOPERATION WITH NATIONAL SOCIETIES
It is vital to ensure that all the Movement’s components provide assistance and services to beneficiaries as effectively and efficiently as possible, acting in accordance with the Movement’s Statutes, policies and Fundamental Principles. The ICRC’s cooperation activities aim to reinforce National Society capacity to provide humanitarian services in situations of armed conflict or internal strife and to foster coordination between the Movement’s components to achieve mutually supportive and effective action.
The ICRC shares its expertise with the National Societies in their domestic and international activities, not only in times of conflict or internal strife, but also in peacetime. It does this by:

- strengthening the National Societies’ capacity to take action and provide appropriate services in times of conflict or internal strife in their own country;
- promoting operational partnerships with National Societies in their own countries and with those working internationally in order to respond to the needs of people affected by conflicts or internal strife;
- promoting dialogue and having regular communication on issues of common concern with National Societies and the International Federation's Secretariat.

The sections below describe these activities, distinguishing between cooperation with a National Society working in its own country and cooperation between the ICRC and National Societies working internationally. The final section discusses overall Movement coordination in the field.

**Building the response capacity of National Societies in their own countries**

The ICRC provides expertise in certain areas to all National Societies in order to strengthen their capacity to conduct activities domestically in accordance with their own priorities and plans. These areas include:

- promoting IHL and spreading knowledge of the Movement’s principles, ideals and activities among both internal and external target groups;
- preparing for and providing health care and relief services in situations of conflict and internal strife;
- restoring family links through the worldwide Red Cross/Red Crescent tracing network;
- developing activities to prevent the dangers posed by mines and other explosive remnants of war;
- supporting National Societies in relevant legal matters, such as recognizing or reconstituting a National Society, drawing up or amending statutes, and preparing for statutory meetings of the Movement.

The National Society remains responsible for designing, managing, implementing and monitoring all the activities it carries out. The ICRC facilitates the implementation of targeted activities by:

- providing National Societies with technical expertise;
- making available material and financial assistance in order to help National Societies fulfill their humanitarian role in situations of armed conflict and internal strife;
- mobilizing support from sister National Societies and retaining a monitoring and support role with respect to the achievement of agreed objectives;
- seconding ICRC delegates to National Societies so that they can exercise executive, managerial or support responsibilities in areas agreed on with the National Society.

Whatever forms the ICRC’s support may take, it is offered in a spirit of partnership in order to transfer knowledge and thus meet the overall objective of strengthening the National Societies’ capacity to act in a sustainable manner. Written agreements between the ICRC and each National Society ensure that the objectives are clear to each partner and that the working relationship is based on a common understanding of respective roles and responsibilities.

The ICRC provides this capacity-building support in close consultation and coordination with the International Federation, as these activities are carried out with a long-term perspective and are part of each National Society’s development process.

**Operational partnerships with National Societies in their own countries**

The ICRC and National Societies in their own countries often join forces and choose to implement activities together for the benefit of people affected by conflict or internal strife. Activities selected for joint implementation are those which best fit within the National Society’s own plan, preserve its ability to function as an independent institution and contribute to further strengthening its operational capacity. The National Society’s autonomy in managing such activities may vary, and is contingent on its operational capacity and conditions on the ground.

Written agreements formalize the operational partnership and specify the objectives to be achieved, respective roles and responsibilities, and corresponding plans of action and budgets. Financial, administrative and reporting procedures form an integral part of such agreements.

This form of cooperation involves meeting the ICRC’s own objectives within its budget and consequently the ICRC retains principal responsibility.

**Operational partnerships with National Societies working internationally**

Many National Societies have the resources and willingness to work internationally together with the ICRC, and contribute in cash, in kind or by providing personnel and operational management. This section focuses on how this kind of operational partnership functions and on the form of projects implemented in the field.

In 2004, the ICRC launched a project to revise the approach, terms and conditions and management procedures of operational partnerships with National Societies working internationally. From 2007, “Integrated Partnerships” and “Coordinated Activities” will replace the previous “delegated” and “bilateral” projects.

In order to make its operational partnerships with National Societies working internationally more effective, and in line with its Cooperation policy of May 2003, the ICRC developed and tested between 2004 and 2006 new forms of partnership and management procedures that aim to bring added value to the Movement’s overall humanitarian response. The first – **Integrated Partnerships** – has been designed for situations where a project carried out by a National Society working internationally forms an integral part of the ICRC’s own objectives, and the National Society is integrated into the ICRC’s operational management framework. The second – **Coordinated Activities** – has been designed for contexts where work carried out by a National Society working internationally is not part of the ICRC’s objectives, but is under the ICRC’s leadership and coordination in conformity with the Seville Agreement. In May 2006, the ICRC decided that the “Coordinated Activities” model would be immediately open to all National Societies, while the “Integrated Partnership” model would gradually be extended to selected National Societies working internationally, starting with the planning exercise done in 2006 for objectives to be implemented in 2007.
Coordination within the Movement
In a given context today, all the types of cooperation outlined above may occur simultaneously. They have to be carefully organized, coordinated and managed in order to achieve their respective objectives. More broadly, the resources made available to the Movement must be coordinated and managed in ways that ensure maximum benefit is derived for the beneficiaries.

The ICRC is responsible for promoting and directing the contribution and involvement of other Movement components in international relief operations in countries affected by armed conflict, internal strife and their direct consequences. It assumes the role of “lead agency” for the Movement operation in accordance with the Movement’s Statutes and the Seville Agreement, and in consultation with the National Society of the country concerned.

In such situations, coordination mechanisms are established that cover all the Red Cross and Red Crescent institutions active on the ground.

When the ICRC assumes the role of lead agency, it implements its own activities while also taking responsibility for coordinating the response of other Movement components. It is currently working to improve its practice as lead agency. Country-level memoranda of understanding, defining the roles and responsibilities of each Movement component in emergency and normal situations, during periods of conflict, transition and peace, have been developed in a number of contexts and have proven effective in preparing the ground for well coordinated Movement action.

In cooperation with other Movement partners, the ICRC has dedicated further resources to learning from the experience of coordinating the Movement’s humanitarian response in a number of contexts. Revised operational guidelines to enhance coordination are under development.

GENERAL
This programme covers all activities related to the functioning of ICRC delegations, but which cannot be allocated to another programme, such as strategy, management, internal control and certain strategic negotiations.

OVERHEADS
The budget and expenditure for each operation comprises a 6.5% overhead charge as a contribution to the costs of headquarters support for operations in the field. This support is for services essential to an operation’s success, such as human resources, finance, logistics, information technology and other support as described in the Headquarters Appeal 2006. The contribution covers approximately 30% of the actual cost of support provided by headquarters to field operations.

CONTINGENCY
The overall amount of the Emergency Appeals includes a budgetary reserve of 5% of the total field budget (including overheads). In previous years, the contingency was set at 10%; it was reduced to its current value, after internal consultation, pursuant to a decision taken by the ICRC Assembly in September 2002. The reserve enables the ICRC to meet unforeseen needs arising from the intensification of armed conflicts or other situations of violence where the total expenditure for its work does not justify a Budget Extension or Special Appeal.

ICRC FIELD STRUCTURE
The ICRC has developed a broad network of delegations around the world. The ultimate purpose of such a network is to enable the ICRC to fulfill its mandate in favour of those affected by armed conflicts and other situations of violence, by responding in a timely, efficient and adequate manner to the resulting humanitarian needs.

ICRC delegations adapt to the specific needs of the contexts in which they are active and endeavour to develop the most appropriate strategies and effective means of responsive, remedial and environment-building action. They also act as early-warning systems with regard to political violence or nascent armed conflicts and their potential consequences in humanitarian terms.

In ongoing or emerging situations of armed conflict or violence, the delegations focus on operational activities such as protection, assistance, cooperation and preventive action at the responsive and remedial levels, for the direct benefit of victims – civilians, people deprived of their freedom and the wounded and sick.

In other situations, the delegations focus primarily on environment-building preventive action, cooperation with National Societies and humanitarian diplomacy, while remaining poised to become more operational should the need arise.

Many delegations cover only one country. Others cover several countries and are called “regional delegations”. Certain delegations are tending more and more to provide regional services for their respective regions, such as Cairo in terms of communication, Amman in terms of logistics and Colombo as a training provider.

The ICRC’s presence in the field can also take the form of a mission or other form of representation adapted to the particularities of the context or the specific functions assigned to the ICRC staff on the ground.
**DELEGATIONS AND MISSIONS IN MORE THAN 80 COUNTRIES AROUND THE WORLD**

**AFRICA**
- Central and Southern Africa
- Horn of Africa
- West Africa

**ASIA AND THE PACIFIC**
- Central Asia and the Sub-continent
- East Asia, South-East Asia and the Pacific

**EUROPE AND THE AMERICAS**
- Latin America and the Caribbean
- North America, Western, Central and South-Eastern Europe
- Eastern Europe

**MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA**
- Near East, Gulf and North Africa

- ANGOLA
- CHAD
- CONGO
- AFGHANISTAN
- MYANMAR
- COLOMBIA
- BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA
- ARMENIA
- ALGERIA

- BURUNDI
- ERITREA
- GUINEA
- NEPAL
- PHILIPPINES
- HAITI
- BELGRADE (REGIONAL)
- AZERBAIJAN
- EGYPT

- CONGO, DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE
- ETHIOPIA
- LIBERIA
- PAKISTAN
- BANGKOK (REGIONAL)
- BUENOS AIRES (REGIONAL)
- BUDAPEST (REGIONAL)
- GEORGIA
- IRAN, ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF

- RWANDA
- SOMALIA
- SIERRA LEONE
- SRI LANKA
- BEIJING (REGIONAL)
- CARACAS (REGIONAL)
- WASHINGTON (REGIONAL)
- KYIV (REGIONAL)
- IRAQ

- UGANDA
- SUDAN
- ABOUJA (REGIONAL)
- NEW DELHI (REGIONAL)
- JAKARTA (REGIONAL)
- LIMA (REGIONAL)
- ANKARA (REGIONAL)
- MOSCOW (REGIONAL)
- ISRAEL, THE OCCUPIED AND AUTONOMOUS TERRITORIES

- HARARE (REGIONAL)
- NAIROBI (REGIONAL)
- ABIDJAN (REGIONAL)
- TASHKENT (REGIONAL)
- KUALA LUMPUR (REGIONAL)
- MEXICO CITY (REGIONAL)
- BRUSSELS
- INTERNATIONAL TRACING SERVICE
- LONDON
- NEW YORK
- PARIS
- JORDAN

- PRETORIA (REGIONAL)
- AFRICAN UNION
- DAKAR (REGIONAL)
- SUVA (REGIONAL)
- INTERNATIONAL TRACING SERVICE
- LONDON
- NEW YORK
- PARIS
- JORDAN

- HARARE (REGIONAL)
- NAIROBI (REGIONAL)
- ABJUJA (REGIONAL)
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- LONDON
- NEW YORK
- PARIS
- JORDAN

- SUVA (REGIONAL)
- INTERNATIONAL TRACING SERVICE
- LONDON
- NEW YORK
- PARIS
- JORDAN

As at 01.01.2007
REGIONAL BREAKDOWN

Delegations are grouped by geographic regions covering the following geographical entities:

- Africa
- Asia and the Pacific
- Europe and the Americas
- Middle East and North Africa

There are 9 regions in all:

- Africa
  - Central and Southern Africa
  - Horn of Africa
  - West Africa
- Asia and the Pacific
  - Central Asia and the Sub-continent
  - East Asia, South-East Asia and the Pacific
- Europe and the Americas
  - North America, Western, Central and South-Eastern Europe
  - Eastern Europe
  - Latin America and the Caribbean
- Middle East and North Africa
  - Near East, Gulf and North Africa

At headquarters, a head of region is in charge of the day-to-day management of and support for field operations in each region. The head of region answers to the director of Operations and is also in charge of a regional multidisciplinary team representing headquarters services such as Protection, Assistance, Logistics, Law, Communication, Cooperation within the Movement, Humanitarian Diplomacy, External Resources, Human Resources, and Finance and Administration, which are involved as needed. The aim is to enhance relations between headquarters and field delegations, and to better coordinate and focus the support provided by these various services.

CONTRIBUTIONS

LEVELS OF EARMARKING

“Earmarking” is the practice whereby donors require that their funds be attributed to a particular region, country, programme or project, or for the purchase of specific goods. Contributions are often accompanied by some degree of earmarking, a timetable for the implementation of projects, or by stringent specific reporting conditions.

Experience has shown that the ICRC’s operational flexibility decreases in direct proportion to the degree of earmarking demanded by donors, to the detriment of the people that the ICRC is trying to help. Moreover, coming to terms with specific earmarking and reporting requirements generates an additional administrative workload, both in the field and at headquarters. Existing standard reporting procedures have to be duplicated to meet individual requests, specific reporting, audit and evaluation requirements.

The ICRC has formulated guidelines to ensure greater uniformity and coherence in managing earmarked funds. These standards are designed to limit the number of financing and reporting constraints, which stifle the ICRC’s ability to respond most effectively to general donor requirements. The guidelines include rules on contributions which cannot be accepted on principle, including:

- contributions which are in contradiction with the Movement’s Fundamental Principles;
- contributions which seek to support only a specific category of beneficiary (e.g. an ethnic or religious minority, a specific age group or a specific gender);
- contributions which seek to support only a specific sub-region of a country;
- visibility requirements which impinge on the security of beneficiaries or ICRC staff.

Earmarking is one of the issues raised in the Donor Support Group (DSG), a discussion forum made up of governments contributing over 10 million Swiss francs annually to the ICRC’s Emergency Appeals. The DSG has successfully assisted the ICRC in its efforts to decrease the levels of earmarking on contributions and to improve its standard reporting system. In addition, the majority of DSG members have accepted that the ICRC’s standard reporting meets the reporting requirements related to their donations. The ICRC continues to try to persuade donors to ease their constraints, while maintaining its commitment to use funds as efficiently as possible. In 2001, the ICRC adapted its standard reporting system to its internal annual planning exercise (known in-house as the PfR, or Planning for Results). This commitment to improve reporting to donors has been further reinforced through, for instance, external audits and enhanced internal planning, monitoring and evaluation procedures.

The table below shows the overall framework agreed with donors for the earmarking level of cash contributions to the ICRC:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level of earmarking</th>
<th>Range/restrictions</th>
<th>Example</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>None</td>
<td>overall ICRC field budget</td>
<td>ICRC operations worldwide</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Region</td>
<td>one of the four geographical entities</td>
<td>ICRC operations in Africa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Programme</td>
<td>one of the four programmes</td>
<td>ICRC prevention worldwide</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Programme/region</td>
<td>one of the four programmes for one of the four geographical entities</td>
<td>ICRC protection activities in Asia and the Pacific</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operation</td>
<td>one of the operational delegations</td>
<td>ICRC activities in Colombia</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Contributions which lead to double or overfinancing (e.g. two different donors wishing to fund the same programme in the same country) cannot be accepted as this would run counter to recognized audit standards. Furthermore, on the basis of the table below, earmarking to the level of programmes or sub-programmes for a specific operation can be accepted in specific circumstances (e.g. an airlift).

Lastly, it must be noted that the earmarking guidelines not only seek increased uniformity and coherence in managing contributions, but also establish a correlation between earmarking and reporting. Indeed, greater flexibility on the donor side regarding narrative and financial reporting enables the ICRC to manage tighter earmarking more effectively.

CONTRIBUTIONS IN KIND

Contributions in kind refer to assistance provided in the form of food, non-food items or specific goods needed for the ICRC’s assistance activities. The customary procedure for the acquisition of contributions in kind is as follows: the ICRC makes a request for specific goods needed for a particular field operation; that request is matched by a specific donor offer of goods. Once the offer has been accepted, the goods are delivered by the donor directly to the ICRC’s local or regional warehouses.

CONTRIBUTIONS IN SERVICES

Contributions in services refer to support given to the ICRC in the form of logistics or staff on loan. The heading “in services” in the regional budget table (See 2006 Emergency Appeals) indicates the portion of the budget that the ICRC estimates will be covered by this sort of contribution.

Logistic services encompass any means of transport such as trucks, planes or boats. The term also includes specific functional units such as offices, warehouses or other forms of operational support that may be lent by a donor to an ICRC operation.

“Staff on loan” are staff put at the ICRC’s disposal by partner National Societies. The value of such personnel is twofold: they represent a significant contribution to the budget and they widen the pool of available skills and abilities in fields such as health, engineering, logistics, cooperation and protection. Recruitment of such staff results from ongoing contacts between the ICRC human resources units and National Societies, and aims to make the closest possible match between the donor’s personnel pool and the needs of the ICRC. The Regulations, Policies and Procedures for National Society personnel seconded to the ICRC are designed to integrate staff on loan into the ICRC’s management framework.

DESCRIPTION OF THE ACCOUNTING MODEL

The accounting model draws a clear distinction between financial accounting and cost accounting. Cost accounting enhances the information available for internal management and reporting to donors. Financial accounting illustrates how human, material and financial resources are used, while cost accounting focuses on the use of those resources for the implementation of operational objectives by country, programme and target population, as defined in the PfR methodology. The aim of the system is to enhance understanding of the resources needed to achieve operational results and to determine the reasons for, and the objectives of, the costs incurred.

OVERVIEW

The objective of the financial accounting system is to record expenses and to report on financial transactions in accordance with legal requirements. The purpose of cost accounting, which is based on financial accounting, is to promote understanding of processes and transactions, to respond to management requirements in terms of detailed information and – in particular for the ICRC – to facilitate general and specific reporting to donors.

The financial accounting system is composed of different data-entry modules that supply the basic information to the cost accounting system (comprising cost centre accounting and cost units accounting). The costs are allocated from the cost centres to the cost units according to where and by whom the objectives are being implemented. For the system to function, staff must report on the time they spend working on different objectives.

Financial accounting system

The financial accounting system consists of a number of modules (general ledger, payroll, accounts payable, accounts receivable, stocks, fixed assets). Information recorded in the peripheral modules is stored within the main module, the general ledger, and incorporated into a balance sheet and a profit-and-loss statement. As financial accounting does not provide information about the origin of and the reason for costs, it does not in itself serve to assess results. In other words, it does not provide the information needed for reporting purposes. This task is performed by cost accounting.

Cost or analytical accounting system

The cost accounting system allocates all costs in two different ways: to the cost centre, which explains the origin of the costs, and to the cost units, which indicate the reason for or the objective of the costs. Thus it not only explains the type and origin of costs (salary, purchase, communications, etc.), but also creates a link between the internal service supplier (operations, management, warehouse, logistics, administration, etc.) and the beneficiary, thereby providing reliable and meaningful information for both internal and external performance assessment and reporting.
COST TYPE ACCOUNTING

Personnel costs are initiated directly by employees and comprise salaries, social benefits, training and all other expenses directly related to staff remuneration.

Workplace costs comprise all costs incurred in connection with the space and infrastructure necessary for the work of staff, and are therefore directly correlated to the number of employees within the cost centre initiating the costs. Examples of such costs are office furniture, IT infrastructure, all types of material and equipment and their maintenance, depreciation of assets, rent for work space and storage space, consumables such as electricity and water, means of transport and communication fees.

Direct costs represent all direct costs that bear no direct relation to the number of employees and that can therefore be allocated directly to cost units accounting (see below). Examples are the purchase of goods and services for distribution to beneficiaries or for immediate consumption.

Financial accounting and cost categories
The chart of accounts comprises three cost categories that serve to allocate costs between cost centres and to cost units accounting.

Cost centre accounting
Any unit (department or unit at headquarters or delegation in the field) within the organization generates costs as it consumes goods and services. It is important to identify the initiator of these costs and to specify his or her responsibility for the type, quality and dimension of the transactions concerned. This is the purpose of the cost centre accounting system. The cost centre reflects the structure of the unit to which the costs incurred within a given period are initially charged. The person who is answerable for the origin of the relevant costs always manages the cost centre.

Cost units accounting
Cost units accounting responds to the information requirements of management and donors, providing greater insight into the financial resources consumed. It is an essential tool for management since it describes the reason for or purpose of the costs. Cost units accounting and reporting is based on the operational objectives defined using the PfR methodology and gives a clearer indication of the purpose for which the costs were incurred.

To make it possible to produce all the reports required, a three-dimensional cost units structure is used. The three dimensions, outlined below, are independent from one another. Set together they are the parameters of the PfR system. The total costs found in cost unit accounting are equal to the total costs found in cost centre accounting. In all three of the dimensions described there are different levels of aggregation in order to monitor activities adequately.

a) Financial “organizational unit” dimension
The financial organizational unit (OU) reflects the hierarchy of the organization in terms of responsibility for operational results. As most ICRC field operations are designed for and implemented in a specific geographical area, the OU dimension also reflects the geographical structure of field operations. It serves to determine the costs and income of a delegation, region or geographical entity and to compare those costs and that income with the pre-defined objectives and results to be achieved.

At headquarters, the OU dimension corresponds to directorates, departments and units.

b) Programme dimension
Programmes are slices of institutional objectives cut along the lines of the ICRC’s core activities. They therefore represent the ICRC’s areas of competence translated into products and services delivered to the beneficiaries (see “Programme Descriptions” above).

c) Target populations and internal projects dimension
With the introduction of the PfR methodology, it has become necessary to identify target populations as relevant cost units and hence to incorporate them into the project dimension (for the definition of target populations see “Target Populations” above).

At headquarters, this functional core support is also used to identify the costs generated by specific internal projects that draw on human resources and over which management needs to exert close financial control.

CONCLUSION

The ICRC has an ambitious accounting model that has implications not only for financial and data-processing procedures but also for the organization and working methods of the relevant support units. In this connection, it has started to work on performance indicators which aim at enhancing the financial information obtained with operational key indicators.
The governing bodies of the ICRC, comprising the Assembly, the Assembly Council and the Presidency, have overall responsibility for institutional policy, strategy and decisions related to the development of IHL. These bodies oversee all the activities of the organization, including field and headquarters operations and the approval of objectives and budgets. They also monitor implementation by the Directorate of Assembly or Assembly Council decisions and are assisted in this task by a Control Commission and the internal and external auditors.

MEETINGS AND DECISIONS OF THE GOVERNING BODIES

The president and director-general of the ICRC kept the Assembly and the Assembly Council regularly informed about the conduct of operations, questions relating to IHL, humanitarian diplomacy, cooperation within the Movement and with other humanitarian practitioners, external communications, and administration and finance. The Assembly and the Assembly Council held six and 16 meetings respectively in 2006.

In accordance with its statutory mandate and pursuant to the advice of its Control Commission, the Assembly reviewed and approved the financial accounts (April) and the Directorate’s proposals for the 2007 objectives and budgets (November). At its annual seminar, which took place in the interval, the Assembly, together with the Directorate, reflected on the organization’s institutional strategy for the years 2007–2010, which it eventually adopted during its September session. Under the strategy, the ICRC reaffirms its determination to pursue its universal humanitarian work in favour of all persons affected by armed conflicts, while remaining the benchmark organization on IHL. It will continue to promote its identity as an impartial, neutral and independent institution; these principles are central to both its activities and its dialogue with the beneficiaries, governments, donors, the parties to conflicts and other stakeholders.

Following the adoption of Additional Protocol III in December 2005 and the decisions taken by the 29th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent in June 2006, the Assembly was in a position to recognize two new National Societies: the Magen David Adom in Israel and the Palestine Red Crescent Society. In 2006, it also confirmed the recognition of the Red Cross of Serbia and the Red Cross of Montenegro. This brought to 186 the number of National Society members of the Movement at the end of 2006.

In matters of policy, the Assembly adopted a document on the invocation of human rights law by the ICRC, for the use of its field delegations. It held preliminary discussions on the internal principles governing protection and good offices, which it intends to adopt in a revised form in 2007.

Following the adoption by the International Commission for the International Tracing Service (ICITS) of additional protocols to the 1955 Bonn Agreements establishing the Service in Bad Arolsen, Germany, and the subsequent signing of these documents by the 11 governments concerned, the Assembly approved the draft protocols and authorized the president of the ICRC to sign the agreement regulating relations between the ICITS and the ICRC once the 11 States had ratified them.

In September 2006 the Assembly adopted a revised version of the ICRC’s Internal Regulations.

MISSIONS

Mr J. Kellenberger, president of the ICRC, conducted various missions for bilateral discussions with governments; when pertinent, the missions included a field visit of ICRC operations. These missions included Washington (May and October), New York (United Nations, October), Abu Dhabi (February), Lisbon (March), Berlin (March), Baku, Tbilisi and Yerevan (April), Helsinki (May), Vaduz (June), Brussels (NATO, the European Commission’s Political and Security Commission, May and November), Ottawa (September), Singapore (October), Paris (June), Lebanon and Israel (September), Stockholm (September) and Rome (November).

Permanent Vice-President J. Forster went to Ankara (Conference of the Parliamentary Union of the Organisation of the Islamic
Conference, April), Vienna (European Education Leadership Conference on Exploring Humanitarian Law, May), Marrakesh (May), New Orleans (July), Bruges (7th Bruges Colloquium on Private Military/Security Companies Operating in Situations of Armed Conflict, October), Addis Ababa (African launch of the Study on customary international humanitarian law), Singapore (VIIth Asia and Pacific Regional Conference of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, November), Australia, New Zealand and Viet Nam (December).

Mr O. Vodoz, Vice-President, attended the dialogue on IHL and Islam in Qom (Islamic Republic of Iran) at the end of November.

Other members of the International Committee also conducted missions to represent the ICRC or to deliver speeches at international or academic meetings:

- Mr J. Abt travelled to the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (October);
- Mr P. Bernasconi and Mr J. Abt both attended the San Remo Round Table (September);
- Mr J. de Courten went to New Delhi (October);
- Mr J. Moreillon was in Santander (May) and in Budapest (October), and spoke at the regional conferences on the re-establishment of family links in Buenos Aires, Nairobi and Kiev (November);
- Mr Y. Sandoz attended conferences on IHL-related issues in Joigny/ Vevey (June), Brussels (September) and Paris (November).

In addition, Ms C. Beerli and Professor C. Le Coultre both conducted internal operational missions to Israel and the occupied and autonomous territories and to Lebanon, in July and October respectively.
The Directorate is the executive body of the ICRC. Its members are the director-general and the heads of the ICRC’s five departments: Operations, International Law and Cooperation within the Movement, Communication, Human Resources, and Resources and Operational Support. The Directorate is responsible for defining and implementing the ICRC’s general objectives and applying institutional strategy, as defined by the Assembly or the Assembly Council. The Directorate also ensures that the organization, particularly its administrative structure, runs smoothly and efficiently.

The members of the Directorate are appointed by the Assembly for four-year terms. The current Directorate took up its duties on 1 July 2006.


At the end of its four-year term, the outgoing Directorate conducted an internal review to measure implementation of the Programme of the Directorate for 2003–2006. The review concluded that the major trends in the external environment identified by the Directorate in 2003 had by and large proven to be accurate and that the ICRC had, on the whole, met its goals for the 2003–2006 period. The ICRC’s strong capacity to rapidly deploy professional staff and efficient logistics in response to major crises was demonstrated on several occasions, notably in Lebanon, Iraq and Darfur, and in the aftermath to the Asian tsunami and the South Asian earthquake. This ability to react to the unforeseen went hand in hand with an enhanced capacity for long-term planning.

The Programme of the Directorate for 2003–2006 established 10 priorities. Implementation of the programme and its associated plan of action was regularly monitored.

» The first and central group of priorities focused on the ICRC’s presence and action in the field. Considerable progress has been made in developing dialogue and networking with State and non-State actors likely to have an influence on armed conflicts. The ICRC has further strengthened its security management and its capacity to assess the needs of victims and to respond in a multidisciplinary manner involving various types of expertise and skills. Gaining access to all victims of armed conflict while preserving the safety of ICRC staff remains a key challenge in some contexts.

» The second group focused on the ICRC’s global positioning with respect to IHL and the Movement. Public debate at the global level has prompted renewed interest in IHL, whose pertinence has at times been cast in doubt. The ICRC has reaffirmed and continues to insist on the relevance and applicability of IHL. With regard to the Movement, operational synergies proved to be particularly beneficial in the case of the humanitarian response to the South Asian earthquake.

» The third group of priorities dealt with resources and management. The financial goals set in 2003 have largely been achieved. Major investments were made in the management and development of human resources (for example in a new human resources management framework).

MANAGEMENT PRIORITIES FOR 2007–2010

The incoming Directorate’s management priorities for 2007–2010 are based on the achievements of the Programme of the Directorate for 2003–2006 and on the ICRC’s institutional strategy for 2007–2010. They aim to strengthen the ICRC’s position as the benchmark organization for neutral and independent humanitarian action and IHL and are based on three pillars:

» strengthening the ICRC’s capacity to design and manage its multidisciplinary operations;
» enhancing internal and external accountability;
» increasing the effectiveness of ICRC operations.
The Directorate has established a detailed plan of action for each of its management priorities, as described below.

**Manage a wide range of services**
The ICRC has been steadily expanding its range of activities. It intends to pursue most of these activities on its own or in cooperation with National Societies, rather than outsourcing them.

Plan of action:

- build the capacity of staff at all levels to design and manage multidisciplinary action;
- define the range of services and strengthen expertise in identified core activities, such as protection and health;
- reinforce the skills needed to engage in operational partnerships with National Societies in countries where the ICRC has a significant presence, with a view to bolstering emergency response capacities.

**Implement results-based management**
The ICRC strives to develop a management culture of accountability and learning which allows for enhanced monitoring and critical evaluation of its operations.

Plan of action:

- develop a management style that is based on clearly established objectives;
- enhance the skills required for results-based management at all levels;
- define indicators for all levels of established objectives (field operations, programmes, institutional);
- adapt the existing institutional tools of results-based management to achieve established objectives.

**Ensure the ICRC operates smoothly and is able to react rapidly**
The ICRC intends to clarify its internal functioning on the basis of a transparent, rapid and efficient decision-making process and appropriate management procedures.

Plan of action:

- reaffirm the ICRC’s organizational model of a single headquarters and a worldwide network of delegations;
- clearly define the roles and responsibilities of each decision-making level;
- improve the internal flow of information;
- enhance the mobility (geographical and hierarchical) of personnel so as to be able to respond to emergencies in a timely and efficient manner;
- further improve career management and ensure that dialogue between the organization and its staff is transparent.
The director-general chairs the Directorate and ensures that its decisions are implemented. He reports to the President’s Office and the Assembly on the Directorate’s objectives, decisions and activities, and on the results achieved. The Office of the Director-General directly supervises the unit responsible for the planning, monitoring and evaluation of ICRC activities; it also oversees efforts to promote gender equality and a number of key strategic projects.

PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT – PLANNING, MONITORING AND EVALUATION

As part of its endeavour to improve its humanitarian services for persons adversely affected by armed conflict, the ICRC continues to apply a performance management method that facilitates management decisions, enhances learning and documents performance accountability.

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

- establish general and specific performance objectives and targets;
- link objectives to budgeting and accounting;
- monitor performance;
- carry out independent evaluations and reviews in order to boost operational performance, knowledge management and the process of learning from experience.

In 2006, the ICRC remained a full member of the Active Learning Network on Accountability and Performance (ALNAP) and continued to work with donors and NGOs on issues related to accountability and performance management for humanitarian activities.

Planning for results

Planning for Results (PfR), the annual planning methodology first introduced in 1999, remained central to the ICRC’s performance management in 2006. PfR was designed to define explicit objectives for ICRC operations formulated in terms of three parameters: target population, programme capacity and geographical location. In 2006 a greater effort was made to promote the methodology through new guidelines and training sessions for users.

Monitoring and reporting on results

Within the new reporting framework, the ICRC moved towards a more results-oriented reporting system and adapted its external reports accordingly.

Evaluating results

The Directorate approved an institutional strategy for independent evaluations in early 2006.

In accordance with its work plan, and under the direct supervision of the Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation Unit, the ICRC completed independent evaluations in 2006 of its economic security programmes in Ethiopia and its emergency operation in Pakistan following the October 2005 earthquake.

In addition, the ICRC pursued its evaluation of programmes related to the missing and their families in the Balkans, and launched evaluations of its 2006 emergency operation in Lebanon and the Movement-wide restoring family links service for people affected by the Asian tsunami.

ISSUES MANAGEMENT

A mechanism run by the Director-General’s Office regularly identified and analysed emerging issues and phenomena that may affect the ICRC’s capacity to operate in the future. Particular attention was paid to longer-term challenges in the ICRC’s operating environment. The potential impact of phenomena such as environmental degradation, urbanization and pandemics was analysed and put in perspective. Whenever necessary, measures were proposed to address these issues. The complex challenges in the humanitarian sector, such as coordination and accountability, and those facing IHL were also examined.
Working on the basis of proposals put forward by the gender equality adviser attached to the Director-General’s Office, the Directorate adopted a revised gender equality policy and strategic framework in March 2006. It reaffirmed its full commitment to achieving and consolidating gender parity (minimum representation of 40% of either sex) at all hierarchical levels of the institution and to pursuing gender mainstreaming and affirmative action policies.

A detailed analysis of statistical data presented to the Directorate in September 2006 identified areas where gender disparities are still very marked. The Directorate consequently adopted a number of concrete measures to address these discrepancies, for example by stimulating commitment at all levels of the hierarchy, by taking affirmative action, and by implementing further improvements in the working environment, particularly in terms of work-life balance (paternity leave, flexible working hours, job sharing, child care, etc.).

The statistical data will be updated annually to allow the organization to track the impact of these measures.
The Department of Operations is responsible for the overall supervision of ICRC field activities worldwide. It supervises the drawing up of operational policies and guidelines, oversees the global analysis of key trends and events, and coordinates the conception, planning and budgeting of field activities carried out by ICRC delegations and missions in some 80 countries. It ensures that field activities are conducted coherently and professionally, in line with the ICRC’s principles and policies, its code of ethics and staff security. It also ensures that adequate resources are allocated, in accordance with ICRC priorities, humanitarian needs as they arise, and the budgetary framework.

DEPARTMENT OF OPERATIONS

In 2006, the Department of Operations was composed of four geographical zones (themselves divided into nine regions), two operational divisions (Assistance and the Central Tracing Agency and Protection) and two smaller units, Humanitarian Diplomacy and Security and Stress. Operational support was provided by an adviser looking into the specific situations and needs of women in times of conflict and by the newly created Rapid Deployment Unit, both of which form part of the Department.

Headquarters staff with specialized knowledge and skills, grouped into regional teams, continued to second the heads of operations and the field delegations.

PROTECTION AND CENTRAL TRACING AGENCY

IHL and other fundamental norms that protect individuals in situations of violence impose obligations on the authorities and parties to an armed conflict and guarantee the rights of civilians and other persons not, or no longer, participating directly in hostilities or violence. ICRC protection activities seek to ensure that the parties to a conflict meet their obligations and that the rights of individuals under IHL and other fundamental norms are respected. They focus on preventing violations and abuse, putting an end to them when they occur and avoiding their recurrence. They also help alleviate the suffering caused by violations and abuse.

Protection work essentially comprises:

- protecting civilians and other individuals not, or no longer, taking part in conflict or violence, notably persons or groups exposed to specific risks such as children, women, the elderly, the handicapped and displaced persons;
- protecting persons deprived of their freedom, particularly those detained in connection with an armed conflict or other situation of violence;
- re-establishing links between members of families who are separated from each other and unable to establish contact by themselves, with priority given to children separated from their parents;
- clarifying the fate of people missing as a result of an armed conflict or other situation of violence.

The ICRC engages in various types of activities in these areas, constantly adapting them to changes in protection needs and contexts. Protection activities include those aimed at:

- persuading and encouraging the authorities and weapon bearers to fulfil their obligations, with the aim of preventing, putting a stop to or alleviating the suffering of people affected by armed conflicts or other situations of violence;
- reinforcing the authorities’ ability to meet their obligations;
- mobilizing other players able to influence and assist the authorities;
- directly providing services to the persons affected;
- in stringently defined circumstances, publicly raising concern and awareness.

The basic principles of ICRC protection action are to work as closely as possible with people affected by conflict or violence, and to engage in constructive, confidential dialogue with all the authorities concerned and other stakeholders who can help prevent or put an end to abuses and violations.
**Protection of the civilian population**

The implementation and scope of protection activities for the civilian population depend on several factors, notably security conditions and the readiness of the authorities to enter into dialogue and to address issues brought to their attention. The fact that the ICRC is able to develop protection activities and discuss sensitive issues with the authorities concerned does not necessarily mean that the desired results will be achieved. In many contexts, the ICRC is aware of the need to maintain or increase its protection activities despite unfavourable conditions, and develops innovative approaches to enhance respect for IHL and other fundamental norms devised to protect individuals in situations of violence.

In 2006, security concerns continued to restrict ICRC access in Afghanistan, Chechnya and Iraq, and made it impossible to address genuine protection needs in other vast regions. The organization pursued its dialogue on the protection of civilians with the authorities and weapon bearers in many countries, such as Colombia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Chad, the Central African Republic, Côte d’Ivoire, Israel and the occupied and autonomous territories, Lebanon, the Philippines and Sri Lanka. Despite concerns spawned by the prevailing security situation, considerable protection work continued to be performed in Darfur, Sudan.

**People deprived of their freedom**

People deprived of their freedom are vulnerable because they depend entirely on the detaining staff and authorities to meet their basic needs and ensure their physical protection. People arrested and detained in connection with an armed conflict or other situation of violence are more likely to be subjected to harsh conditions of detention or to ill-treatment than ordinary detainees.

The main objective of ICRC work to protect people deprived of their freedom is to prevent or put an end to summary executions, torture and other forms of ill-treatment, inadequate conditions of detention, the severing of contact between detainees and their families and disregard for fundamental judicial guarantees and procedural safeguards.

ICRC access to places of detention is not an end in itself. Rather, visits are a means of collecting first-hand information about the situation in such places. The ICRC monitors and assesses detainees’ conditions of detention and treatment by sending trained staff to visit places of detention, talk with the authorities concerned, hold private interviews with detainees/prisoners and prepare an overall analysis of their findings. ICRC findings, assessments and related recommendations are discussed with the authorities at the appropriate levels. ICRC monitoring is a repeated process held to strict professional standards.

In countries affected by both armed conflict or some other form of violence and longstanding severe economic difficulties, the detaining authorities may be unable to ensure conditions of detention that meet the basic needs of detainees held under their authority, regardless of the reason for their detention. Such a situation may require specific efforts and activities on the part of the ICRC. The ICRC’s response will vary, depending on the protection needs identified and the will and capability of the authorities to address them, from confidential reporting and recommendations to the relevant authorities, to a catalogue of activities that includes material assistance, the repair or installation of water supply and sanitation systems, the provision of medical and hygiene supplies, capacity building and training for penal staff, law-enforcement officers, the military and the judiciary, the mobilization of other players and, in exceptional circumstances, public communication of ICRC protection concerns.

In 2006, the ICRC had access to persons deprived of their freedom in nearly 80 countries and made numerous recommendations to improve often unsatisfactory conditions or treatment. It also continued its visits to people held in The Hague by the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, in Arusha by the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, and in Freetown by the Special Court for Sierra Leone. For the first time it conducted visits to persons held under the jurisdiction of the International Criminal Court in The Hague.

States’ policies of repression relating to acts of transnational “terrorism” continued to challenge the ICRC’s ability to engage in constructive dialogue with the authorities responsible for compliance with IHL and other fundamental norms, and to promote respect for the relevant rules among specific groups/actors and to offer a humanitarian response to the needs of people affected by “terrorist” acts. The ICRC visited persons held in connection with acts of “terrorism” in several contexts, and continued to seek access to persons detained on similar charges wherever they were held.

In countries such as Afghanistan, Ethiopia, Georgia, Guinea, Sierra Leone, Madagascar, Rwanda and Peru, the ICRC provided support to the penitentiary administrations, initiating or pursuing activities to address structural problems with a view to enabling the authorities to improve their response to the needs and rights of people deprived of their freedom.

For various reasons, the ICRC put on hold or was unable to resume its visits to persons deprived of their freedom in countries such as Myanmar, the Russian Federation (for Chechnya) and Tajikistan, all the while pursuing its efforts to resolve the problem with the authorities. It maintained and intensified its dialogue with several governments with the aim of gaining access to persons deprived of their freedom. While in several countries those discussions were encouraging, in some contexts progress was slower than expected. For the first time, the ICRC conducted visits to persons deprived of their freedom in Togo.

**Restoring family links**

Armed violence and natural or man-made disasters may lead to massive displacements of people and the separation of families. To re-establish contact between dispersed family members or to reunite families, the ICRC provides services for restoring family links and networks for the exchange of family news. It pays particular attention and gives priority to children separated from their families and those demobilized from fighting forces, as they may encounter specific protection problems.

The tracing services of National Societies reinforce the ICRC’s operational capacities in this area. The family-links network – comprising the ICRC’s Central Tracing Agency, ICRC delegations and National Society tracing services – provides essential services to those in need, enabling people to communicate with one another, reuniting those who have been separated, locating missing relatives or identifying and recovering human remains.
The ICRC acts both in its direct operational capacity and in its lead role for restoring family links within the Movement. This lead role means that the ICRC acts as the Movement’s technical adviser in this field and coordinator of its international response, even in situations of natural disaster occurring outside conflict zones or violence-prone areas.

In 2006, needs for assistance in restoring family links and related activities remained particularly acute in Africa, mainly in Angola, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Horn of Africa. In West Africa, family-links services continued to be provided but to a lesser extent than in the past, as the situation stabilized. In South Asia, work continued to meet the needs generated by the 2005 earthquake. In cooperation with National Societies, the ICRC acted, whenever necessary, following smaller-scale natural disasters that struck in 2006, particularly in Asia (Indonesia and the Philippines), to make sure that people who had lost touch with their relatives were able to get the assistance they needed.

In December 2004, the ICRC launched a project called “Restoring Family Links – strengthening the response of the Movement”. The project aims to enhance response capacity to the needs of those without news of their families by developing and implementing a ten-year Movement strategy to restore family links. With the support of an advisory group composed of representatives of 20 National Societies and the International Federation the ICRC drew up the strategy in 2005 and 2006. It was then discussed at four regional conferences held in November and December 2006 in Nairobi, Kyiv, Buenos Aires and Bangkok, and attended by senior National Society leaders. Comments made during the conferences will be incorporated into a revised consolidated strategy to be submitted to the Council of Delegates in November 2007.

Missing persons and their families

Following the 2003 International Conference of Governmental and non-Governmental Experts on the Missing, the 28th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent adopted the Agenda for Humanitarian Action, which sets out clear objectives for the States and the Movement to achieve between 2004 and 2007. The ICRC, for its part, pledged to resolve the problem of people unaccounted for as a result of armed conflict or internal violence and to assist their families.

Since then, the ICRC has continued to expand its activities in favour of missing persons and their families, promoting the relevant humanitarian rules, developing appropriate national law, cooperating with armed forces, arranging for the exchange of family news, tracing persons unaccounted for, handling human remains and providing support to the families of missing persons. It backed the development of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, adopted in December 2006 by the UN General Assembly. The ICRC also maintained constant dialogue with the authorities with a view to ascertaining the fate of missing persons and assisting their families, often households headed by women. In particular, it continued to promote the establishment of national or multilateral mechanisms for clarifying the fate of people missing in connection with armed conflicts or internal violence and to provide support to, or participate in, existing mechanisms, particularly in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Iraq, Nepal, Serbia (including Kosovo) and Timor-Leste.

Relations with other organizations and academic institutions

The ICRC participated in various meetings, round-tables and conferences on general and specific protection issues. It also maintained bilateral relations with the main organizations and institutions active in this area. Within the UN framework, it followed in particular discussions on the protection of IDPs and participated as an observer in protection “cluster” meetings, both in the field and at headquarters level. The main purpose of these contacts was to promote the specific approach of the ICRC, ensure complementarity and prevent gaps in protection work, avoid duplication of efforts and the weakening of professional standards, and accurately identify the added value of each individual organization, in terms of its mandate, experience and specific nature.

ASSISTANCE

The Assistance Division provides strategic support and professional expertise in three areas of activity – health services, economic security and water and habitat – to operations in the field. It also devotes considerable effort to the vital area of staff development and management.

To maintain the quality of its services, the Assistance Division develops policies and guidelines while also helping to shape policy and strategy for the ICRC. It plays an active role in debates within the Movement and the wider humanitarian community, and with academic institutions, professional associations and other bodies involved in analysing and developing professional standards relevant to its fields of activity.

Operational support

In 2006, most of the ICRC’s delegations and offices around the world carried out health, economic security, and water and habitat programmes. The most extensive programmes were in Afghanistan, the Caucasus, Colombia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Iraq, Israel and the occupied and autonomous territories, Lebanon, Liberia, Somalia, Sudan (the southern part of the country and Darfur), Pakistan-administrated Kashmir and Sri Lanka.

Health care

ICRC activities to promote health are designed to ensure that people affected by conflict or violence have access to basic preventive and curative health care that meets universally recognized standards. To this end, the ICRC assists local or regional health services, which it sometimes replaces on a strictly temporary basis.

In 2006, the ICRC provided regular support to 193 hospitals admitting wounded patients – including people with mine injuries – and other surgical cases, and performed surgical operations on many of them. It also lent a hand in medical cases, for example when patients required gynaecological/obstetric or paediatric care, in conflict-affected areas. In addition, the ICRC regularly assisted first-aid posts near combat zones.

In cooperation with partner National Societies, the ICRC ran community-based programmes in 19 countries, including Colombia, Sri Lanka and Sudan. It also provided regular support for health care facilities.
Health care activities are carried out as part of the 2004 ICRC Assistance Policy, which is being gradually implemented and whose highlights comprised:

- the development and implementation of comprehensive hospital emergency care, including surgical, medical, paediatric and gynaecological/obstetric care, as in Afghanistan, Chad, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Iraq, Somalia, and Sri Lanka;
- strengthening the national hospital-management capacity in chronic conflict and post-crisis situations, such as in Afghanistan (Jalalabad Hospital), the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Sudan (Juba Hospital);
- increasing the immunization capacity and backing immunization activities in conflict areas of Colombia, Côte d’Ivoire, Myanmar, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Sudan (Darfur);
- providing support for victims of sexual violence, especially in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Sudan (Darfur).

In the core field of health in places of detention, the ICRC concentrated on:

- providing support for an enhanced prison health system in Afghanistan, Bolivia, Kyrgyzstan, Peru, Rwanda and the southern Caucasus;
- furthering the tuberculosis (TB) control programme in prisons in the Caucasus (the programme is gradually being handed over to the authorities; TB drugs, for example, are no longer supplied by the ICRC);
- in accordance with established criteria, assisting people living with HIV/AIDS in African prisons, for instance in Lesotho, Rwanda and Uganda, in partnership with the relevant Ministries of Justice and Health, national NGOs and international organizations;
- documenting and preventing ill-treatment in prisons;
- providing psychological support to victims of violence (in Algeria and the Democratic Republic of the Congo) and the families of missing persons (in the Balkans, the Caucasus and Sri Lanka).

In another health-related field, the physical rehabilitation of disabled people, the ICRC supported centres in 24 countries in 2006. The three main objectives of its programmes are to improve access to rehabilitation services, promote good quality services and ensure the long-term functioning of the services.

**Water and habitat**

The ICRC’s water and habitat programmes provide basic services to groups of people affected by conflict or violence, ensuring they have access to water supplies, decent conditions of sanitation and adequate shelter. When necessary, health facilities are rehabilitated to improve access to health care. The services are provided throughout the different phases of a crisis, from the acute stage to the post-crisis period.

In 2006, the ICRC constructed or repaired water and sanitation facilities in 40 countries. These projects, implemented by expatriate and national engineers and technicians, catered for the needs of some 15.9 million people worldwide. They ranged from making water safe to drink by setting up hand pumps and water-treatment systems to ensuring proper sewage disposal in towns and villages affected by armed conflict. They also included repairing and, in some cases, building health care facilities and centres to house displaced people, and building or improving water and sanitation facilities in places of detention.

In many contexts, it is the task of women and girls to fetch water. Making water facilities more accessible reduces their exposure to the risk of attack and sexual violence.

In Chad, access to water was improved through peri-urban projects in the main towns of eastern Chad and nearby refugee camps, and through rural projects targeting villages along the border receiving IDPs. Medical facilities also received support.

In Iraq, where the ICRC maintained its presence despite volatile security conditions, water and habitat engineers continued to help Iraqi water boards and the health authorities, operating emergency projects in water and sewage stations and health facilities.

In Lebanon, emergency water supply systems were set up, or existing ones rehabilitated, both in urban and rural areas, mainly in the southern part of the country.

In Pakistan-administered Kashmir, people affected by the 2005 earthquake benefited from the rehabilitation of 39 rural and urban water systems. Four health centres were built and construction begun on a prosthetic/orthotic workshop.

In Sri Lanka, work resumed in war-torn areas to improve water supply and shelter for IDPs.

In Sudan, the ICRC focused on Darfur, where it assured and increased access to the water supply and health facilities for the population in rural and urban areas and IDP camps.

In places of detention with no other means of providing detainees with acceptable living conditions, the ICRC carried out water and sanitation activities and repairs to water supply and sanitation systems, chiefly in Afghanistan, Burundi, Chad, Côte d’Ivoire, Ethiopia, Guinea, Haiti, Kyrgyzstan, Liberia, Nepal, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Sri Lanka and Uganda.

**Economic security**

The ICRC’s approach to economic security aims to ensure that households and communities can cover their material needs and maintain or restore sustainable livelihoods. This involves initiatives ranging from emergency distributions of food and essential household items to sustainable food-production programmes and micro-economic initiatives. Examples of the latter two include the maintenance/rehabilitation of irrigation perimeters, in-kind grants, small-scale community-based cash-for-work projects, and livestock management.

In 2006, the ICRC carried out economic security work in 27 countries, providing IDPs and residents with food aid and essential household and hygiene items. Many more – including single-headed households – were assisted through sustainable food-production programmes or micro-economic initiatives. Up to 90 specialized expatriate staff were involved, in addition to nearly 700 national staff.

The ICRC supplied emergency food and/or essential household items to people affected by conflict and violence in Afghanistan, Chad, Colombia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Côte d’Ivoire, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Georgia, Indonesia, Iraq, Liberia, the
occupied and autonomous Palestinian territories, the Philippines, the Russian Federation, Somalia, Sudan, Uganda, Yemen and Zimbabwe.

On selected occasions, and mostly because the detaining authorities were unable to respond in a timely manner to deteriorating situations, the ICRC provided food for inmates, and supported feeding programmes and/or provided technical advice for the management and prevention of malnutrition in some prisons in the Central African Republic, Chad, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Côte d’Ivoire, Guinea, Haiti, Madagascar, Niger and Uganda.

The ICRC carried out crop and livestock (including veterinary and fishery) projects in Côte d’Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Republic of the Congo, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Kenya, Liberia, the occupied and autonomous Palestinian territories, Senegal, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Sudan and Uganda. It continued micro-economic initiatives, such as community-based cash-for-work and in-kind grants for farms and cottage industries, in Georgia, the Russian Federation, Somalia, the occupied and autonomous Palestinian territories and Sri Lanka.

In Pakistan, the ICRC ended its distributions of food and essential household items by spring and started numerous crop projects and a livestock-restocking project in cooperation with the German Red Cross.

Following the outbreak of the Lebanon crisis in July, the ICRC provided food and essential household items to the displaced and other civilians affected by the conflict. Ethiopia, Somalia and northern Kenya suffered successively from drought and floods in 2006; appropriate responses were provided in the form of food, essential household items and seeds, livestock restocking and veterinary treatment, tailored to the event and the country.

A team of external consultants reviewed the economic security programme in Ethiopia, which was modified as a result.

Policies and key issues
The Assistance Division produced a number of guidelines and reference tools in its three areas of activity. These guidelines and tools were developed after a careful review of existing documents and other sources of information and included:

- a manual entitled *First Aid in armed conflicts and other situations of violence*;
- forms for ante-mortem/post-mortem data collection and management;
- an institutional framework to guide activities in the field of physical rehabilitation;
- technical guidelines for physical rehabilitation services; and
- an IT application to help manage water and habitat programmes.

The Assistance Division also contributed to a manual entitled *Needs Assessment in Emergencies*, developed by the International Federation, and helped produce another entitled *Management of Dead Bodies after Disaster*, together with the Pan American Health Organization, WHO and the International Federation.

Human resources development
In 2006, as in previous years, the Assistance Division worked unstintingly to improve the quality and scope of training for its health, economic security and water and habitat personnel. It organized courses and workshops on issues such as first aid, basic health care, emergency surgery in war-torn areas, hospital management, economic security, assessment of water supply systems and water engineering. It allocated substantial resources to training and contributed its expertise to on-site courses for health-care personnel working in places of detention and to war-surgery seminars held around the world. In addition, six Health Emergencies in Large Populations (H.E.L.P.) courses, given in three languages, were organized in various parts of the world. The H.E.L.P. course has been given 91 times since its inception 20 years ago, and more than 2,000 people have taken part. It is a multicultural and multidisciplinary learning experience that seeks to heighten professionalism in humanitarian assistance programmes conducted in emergency situations.

Contributions to the humanitarian debate
Throughout the year, the Assistance Division participated in workshops, forums and conferences attended by key humanitarian agencies such as specialized UN organizations, notably the WFP, the Food and Agriculture Organization, WHO and UNHCR, and NGOs such as Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF), Action Contre la Faim, Oxfam, Handicap International and Physicians for Human Rights. It also maintained and developed a network of contacts with professional associations and academic institutions. The ICRC’s expertise in specialized areas such as the rehabilitation of amputees, water and habitat engineering, war surgery, and health and medical ethics in prisons was frequently solicited in international conferences and workshops.

RELATIONS WITH INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

In international forums, the ICRC promotes knowledge, understanding and – whenever appropriate – the development of IHL. It explains its position on issues of humanitarian concern. It multiplies contacts to facilitate its operations in the field and raise awareness of the plight and needs of those affected by armed conflicts and violence. Above all, it strives to defend and promote impartial, neutral and independent humanitarian action, and to guard against the use of humanitarian activities as a tool for military or political ends.

To this purpose, the ICRC develops and maintains close relations with a wide range of intergovernmental organizations through its headquarters and its delegations, mainly in Addis Ababa, Brussels, Cairo, Kuala Lumpur, New York, Paris and Washington. The ICRC’s Humanitarian Diplomacy Unit acts as a focal point for relations between the ICRC and these organizations, *inter alia* the African Union (AU), the League of Arab States, the Organization of American States (OAS), the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC), the Council of Europe, the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) and the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE). In general terms, the ICRC has further deepened its understanding of Asian multilateral and regional organizations as a means of reinforcing its humanitarian diplomacy in this important part of the world. Similarly, it maintains regular contact with the UN bodies in New York and Geneva, such as the General Assembly, the Security Council, the Peacebuilding Commission, the Human Rights Council, the Economic and Social Council, and the various UN humanitarian agencies. The ICRC also maintains regular exchanges with NGOs and their umbrella organizations.
Raising issues of humanitarian concern in international forums

Throughout 2006, issues of humanitarian concern were high on the agendas of various UN bodies and international conferences, not only because of the major international crises that occurred, including the Lebanon crisis, but also because it was the year in which the various aspects of UN humanitarian system reform began being implemented at field level.

The ICRC continued to follow closely the UN reform process and its implementation to keep abreast of developments relevant to its humanitarian activities, and to promote understanding of and support for its mandate and work, both generally and in relation with the UN’s new humanitarian system. It attended the 61st session of the UN General Assembly in its capacity as an observer, and delivered statements on issues of humanitarian concern in the plenary and various committees. These included enhanced coordination of UN humanitarian and disaster-relief assistance, enforced disappearances, protection of the rights of children, IDPs, the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture, and the status of the 1977 Additional Protocols. The ICRC played a similar role at the Humanitarian Affairs Segment of the Economic and Social Council, and paid close attention to various issues taken up by the UN Security Council. It closely followed the 62nd and last session of the Commission on Human Rights, and the first regular sessions of the Human Rights Council, where it made a statement on people missing in connection with armed conflict. It also attended the special sessions of the Human Rights Council held in 2006.

In Europe, the ICRC maintained regular contact with regional organizations such as the Council of Europe and the OSCE. Debates and decisions pertaining to human rights, the rule of law, migration, small arms and light weapons, conflict prevention and detention conditions were closely monitored. The ICRC attended the OSCE’s 14th Ministerial Meeting and its Human Dimension Implementation Meeting, and the annual tripartite meeting between the Council of Europe, the OSCE and the UN, in Geneva. Its contribution to these events focused on raising awareness of and promoting both thematic and specific context-related humanitarian issues.

In Africa, the ICRC reinforced its cooperation with the AU, its Commission and relevant departments, and particularly with the Peace and Security Council (PSC). The ICRC and the presidency of the PSC initiated a structured dialogue on humanitarian topics of concern to the ICRC. Through its focal points network, the ICRC also strengthened its cooperation with the main regional economic communities and attended some of the events organized under their auspices. It attended the sixth and seventh summits of the AU in Khartoum, Sudan, and Banjul, Gambia, respectively, and was present at a ministerial conference on IDPs in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, where it contributed significantly to the debate on the creation of a legal framework on the rights of IDPs in Africa. It participated in the 28th session of the AU Coordinating Committee on Assistance and Protection to Refugees, Returnees and IDPs in Africa, securing a special status that allows it to participate actively in the debate as a neutral, independent and humanitarian actor.

In Asia, the creation of the Kuala Lumpur-based post dealing with multilateral affairs has greatly enhanced the ICRC’s ability to interact with intergovernmental organizations in East and Southeast Asia, including the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, and the South Asia Association for Regional Cooperation, and to engage them in dialogue on humanitarian issues. In addition, the ICRC attended and contributed to various Track II diplomacy events.

In Latin America, the ICRC closely followed the work of, among others, the OAS, the Caribbean Community and Common Market, and the Common Market of the South (Mercosur). It participated in various events, including the 36th General Assembly of the OAS in Santo Domingo. It also significantly strengthened its cooperation with the various bodies of the OAS at OAS headquarters in Washington, and with the Inter-American Commission for Human Rights. Throughout its interaction with these organizations, the ICRC focused on the application of IHL, international refugee law and human rights law, the fight against “terrorism” and the issue of people missing in connection with armed conflict.

The ICRC continued to pursue closer links with organizations based in the Muslim world. It participated as an observer in several high-level meetings, including the 33rd Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers in Baku, Azerbaijan, and the Fourth Session of the Conference of the Parliamentary Union of OIC Member States in Istanbul, Turkey. A number of workshops on the implementation of IHL were organized with the support of the League of Arab States.

The ICRC maintained contacts with parliamentarians from around the world. It attended the IPU Assemblies in Nairobi and Geneva, and participated in inter-parliamentary conferences in Bujumbura, Midrand, Montevideo, Moscow and New York. It welcomed the adoption of an IPU resolution on missing persons during the October 2006 IPU Assembly in Geneva. The ICRC also took part in all sessions of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe. In all its dealings, the ICRC focused on the issue of people missing in connection with armed conflict.

The ICRC kept abreast of numerous public discussions on issues relevant to its work, including migration, the specific situation of women and children in conflict, internal displacement, conflict prevention, peace-building and the strengthening of the humanitarian response capacity for forgotten emergencies. Accordingly, it attended international conferences on these issues in various places around the globe.

Enhancing cooperation and coordination between agencies

In recognition of the scale and complexity of needs arising from crises, the increasing number of relief organizations on the ground, the shifting humanitarian environment and the changes resulting from UN humanitarian reform, the ICRC stepped up its consultation and coordination with other humanitarian practitioners on the multilateral humanitarian scene.

The ICRC actively participated in the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) – the UN mechanism for coordinating the humanitarian activities of both UN and non-UN organizations – in which it is a standing invitee. As in past years, the ICRC took an active part in the IASC’s information meetings, working groups and principals meetings at UN headquarters. Its delegations participated in coordination meetings in the field and cooperated with UN staff to develop Common Humanitarian Action Plans in an effort to prevent duplication or gaps in relief aid. Throughout
the year, the ICRC contributed extensively to the work undertaken by IASC sub-bodies on subjects such as the human rights of IDPs in natural disasters or gender mainstreaming in humanitarian action. It also actively participated in a multitude of meetings and discussions on reform of the UN humanitarian system and its implementation in the field. During the Lebanon crisis, the ICRC appointed a full-time delegate to liaise with the various actors involved and in particular with the UN bodies within the cluster system being implemented in Lebanon.

The ICRC maintained bilateral contacts with various UN and non-UN agencies. It attended the 91st Session of the IOM Council and strengthened institutional relations and operational dialogue with the WFP. It also enhanced relations with UNHCR, both at the highest and working levels. In addition, the ICRC stepped up its institutional and operational dialogue with OHCHR and UNICEF. During a high-level meeting in June 2006, President Kellenberger and the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Antonio Guterres, discussed and agreed upon a Joint Note defining cooperation between the ICRC and the UNHCR. This document was dispatched to their respective headquarters and field delegations. It aims to encourage effective interaction between the two organizations, particularly at field level, through practical consultation methods.

The ICRC maintained contacts with the main NGOs. As in previous years, a high-level meeting took place with MSF and is to be followed in 2007 by similar meetings between the ICRC and other NGOs, especially those with which the ICRC has developed closer working relations. Close coordination was continued with NGO umbrella organizations, such as the Steering Committee for Humanitarian Response (of which the ICRC is a full member) and the International Council of Voluntary Agencies (at which the ICRC has observer status). A first seminar on humanitarian policies and principles, organized by the ICRC and Voluntary Organizations in Cooperation in Emergencies (VOICE), took place in Brussels. The ICRC also participated in the World Social Forum in Caracas and Bamako, and contributed to the reflection on civil society’s role in issues pertaining to conflict prevention, especially with the Global Partnership on the Prevention of Armed Conflict. In July 2006, the ICRC participated in the launch of the Global Humanitarian Platform, designed to bring together on equal footing NGOs, the Movement’s components and the UN.

The ICRC maintained a close link with the Humanitarian Liaison Working Group, which brings together representatives of major donor countries in Geneva to foster dialogue with humanitarian agencies, and attended the Group’s seventh annual Montreux Donor Retreat in February.
The Department for International Law and Cooperation within the Movement seeks to reinforce and help implement the rules protecting victims of war, and to promote coherent action and policy among the Movement’s components. It spearheads work to develop, explain and promote the provisions of IHL relating to international and non-international armed conflicts, to promote cooperation between the Movement’s components in the achievement of their humanitarian mission and to foster implementation of the Fundamental Principles. The Department also archives ICRC records for historical purposes and publishes a periodical.

TOWARDS A COMPREHENSIVE SOLUTION TO THE QUESTION OF THE EMBLEM

Following the adoption in December 2005 by the States party to the 1949 Geneva Conventions of Additional Protocol III establishing an additional distinctive emblem, the 29th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent was convened specifically to amend the Movement’s Statutes accordingly, to adopt the name of the additional distinctive emblem, “red crystal”, and to create a framework for the recognition of the Palestine Red Crescent Society.

The Conference took place on 20 and 21 June 2006 and voted to adopt all three proposals. On 22 June, the ICRC recognized the Palestine Red Crescent Society and the Magen David Adom in Israel. Both National Societies were admitted on the same date to the International Federation.

POLICY-MAKING (DOCTRINE)

In 2006, in line with the ICRC’s decision to strengthen its policy-making process, the Department initiated a three-year project aimed at reviewing ICRC policy texts and creating a policy-making framework within the organization.

MOVEMENT COORDINATION AND COOPERATION

In armed conflicts and other situations of violence, and in dealing with their direct consequences, the ICRC works closely with the National Societies and their International Federation to respond to humanitarian needs in accordance with the Movement’s Statutes and policies. The Division for Movement Coordination and Cooperation (Division) helps the ICRC discharge its responsibilities towards the Movement’s other components by:

a) providing guidance to field delegations on coordination and operational cooperation with other components of the Movement, and providing direction and support for National Society capacity-building activities (Movement action);
b) backing National Society efforts to apply the Fundamental Principles and the Movement’s policies, rules and regulations (Movement principles and rules);
c) developing Movement policies and guidance documents for adoption by the Movement’s statutory bodies, organizing meetings of these bodies and promoting implementation of the decisions and resolutions adopted by them (Movement policy).

The highlights of the Division’s work in 2006 are described below.

MOVEMENT ACTION

Support for Movement coordination in ICRC field operations

In 2006, the ICRC provided substantial support for coordination and cooperation activities between Movement components, placing particular emphasis on the role of the host National Society in major ICRC operations in places such as Afghanistan, Iraq, Israel and the occupied and autonomous Palestinian territories, Lebanon, Pakistan, Somalia, Sri Lanka, and Sudan (Darfur). It issued Joint Statements with the International Federation regarding coordination of the Movement’s response to the hostilities in Lebanon in July and to the conflict in Somalia in December 2006. When renewed fighting broke out in Sri Lanka, a second Movement coordination mechanism was set up to assist the victims; the first had
been established in early 2005 for the operation launched in the wake of the December 2004 tsunami and continued to function.

Within the context of the Rapid Deployment Framework headed by the ICRC Operations Department, the Division for Movement Coordination and Cooperation regularly cooperated with the International Federation’s Disaster Management (DM) section, exploring joint training concepts. It also took part in regular Emergency Response Unit (ERU) and DM meetings and training courses.

Pursuant to the recommendations adopted by the Council of Delegates in 2005, the Department worked to give effect to the Supplementary Measures to the Seville Agreement. To this end, a training concept and module for joint ICRC-International Federation training was developed with the International Federation, and training of all senior managers with operational responsibilities in the ICRC, the International Federation and National Societies got under way in 2006. Terms of reference were agreed for external evaluations to monitor implementation of the Seville Agreement and the Supplementary Measures, and the first evaluation was conducted in Kenya in 2006. It will be followed in 2007 by evaluations in Haiti and Indonesia.

With a view to strengthening operational partnerships between the ICRC and National Societies working internationally, the ICRC Directorate adopted in June 2006 the terms and conditions for “Integrated Partnerships” and “Coordinated Activities”, based on the results of a two-year pilot project conducted in the field.

As it has in years past, the ICRC worked with the International Federation to organize the annual information meeting for 40 National Societies working internationally. The meeting discussed operations in Haiti and Sudan, and held thematic debates on current issues.

In the follow-up to the high-level meeting held between the ICRC and UNHCR in June 2006, the ICRC prepared a joint note which was signed by the president of the ICRC and the High Commissioner and which aimed at ensuring effective coordination and cooperation between the two organizations and providing guidance for operational interaction between UNHCR and National Societies in armed conflicts and other situations of violence.

Support for National Society capacity building
The Division continued to advise ICRC delegations around the world on operational matters and programmes with a view to strengthening the capacity of National Societies to promote IHL and the Fundamental Principles, to re-establish family links, to prepare for and respond to conflict, and to take mine action.

It worked closely with the Protection Division in developing a 10-year strategy to strengthen the worldwide Family Links Network. In particular, it participated in four regional conferences organized by the ICRC, in which 139 National Societies in all exchanged views with the International Federation and the ICRC on the content of the draft strategy.

A working group of experienced delegates was set up to develop guidelines for the implementation and contextualization of the Safer Access approach, and contributed to the content and promotion among National Societies of the ICRC’s manual, First Aid in armed conflicts and other situations of violence.

Together with the International Federation, the Division also organized two sessions of the Leadership Development Programme for 40 newly-appointed senior leaders of National Societies, focusing on the international dimensions and responsibilities of their role.

It also continued to participate in Basic Training Courses for National Society and International Federation staff seconded to emergency operations. Some 40 such courses were organized in 2006, a significant increase over previous years (33 were held in 2005 and an average of 25 in the years before).

MOVEMENT PRINCIPLES AND RULES

The Palestine Red Crescent Society and the Magen David Adom in Israel were actively helped by the Division to fulfill the 10 conditions for recognition. This enabled the ICRC to recognize the two National Societies and led to their subsequent admission to the International Federation and their incorporation into the Movement. The Division also prepared the ground for the recognition, by the ICRC, of the National Societies of Serbia and of Montenegro.

The Division further intensified its work within the Joint ICRC/International Federation Commission for National Society Statutes, whose aim is to help National Societies adhere at all times to the Fundamental Principles by strengthening their legal base, i.e. their statutes and national Red Cross/Red Crescent legislation. In 2006, the Commission provided formal comments and recommendations to 50 National Societies on the text of their draft statutes, compared to 40 the previous year. It provided assistance and guidance to 12 other National Societies regarding the revision of national legislation related to their status. The Division also produced a general compilation of National Society laws to assess their compatibility with the current draft model law for the recognition of National Societies, and finalized an information note on the procedure for recognition of National Societies by the ICRC and admission to the International Federation.

Work continued on a structured and methodical approach to help National Societies protect their integrity in accordance with the Fundamental Principles. The case-management system was further refined and 51 cases were being actively monitored as 2006 drew to a close. Coordination with the International Federation was maintained at governance and management level; the ICRC participated in the International Federation Governing Board working group on integrity, and took specific action in five cases where serious concerns existed regarding the integrity of individual National Societies. In accordance with the Movement’s Strategy, the Division conducted internal and external consultations based on a draft document it produced on the issue of permanent compliance with the conditions for National Society recognition.

The Division also dealt with some 50 inquiries in 2006 about the proper use of the red cross and red crescent emblems, providing advice and recommendations to ICRC delegations, National Societies and private individuals. As per the request set out in the Movement’s Strategy, it initiated a comprehensive study of operational and commercial issues involving the use of the emblems; the study is to be finalized for presentation at the 2007 statutory meetings.
In response to developments in the European Union Civil Protection mechanism, the ICRC and the International Federation agreed on a common position on how to guide European National Societies in relation to the mechanism. The Division lent support to the Brussels delegation in its endeavours in this respect.

MOVEMENT POLICY

The Division spearheaded the preparatory work for the 2006 Council of Delegates and the 29th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, at which the Movement’s Statutes were amended. It also headed preparations within the ICRC and consultations with the International Federation, the Standing Commission and National Societies regarding the concept, substance and organization of the 2007 statutory meetings (Council of Delegates and 30th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent). Promotion and reporting tools relating to the pledges made at the 28th International Conference were developed and shared with the Movement’s components to enhance data collection and reporting to the 30th International Conference. The resolutions of the 2005 Council of Delegates in Seoul were published on the ICRC website and in booklet form.

Intensive work was undertaken in 2006 to update the *Handbook of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement* and to prepare a web-based reference source. The English version of the revised *Handbook* is due to be published in 2007.

The Division further administered or supervised various Movement funds, medals and prizes, organized 42 official visits by some 300 National Society leaders and representatives to ICRC headquarters, and represented the ICRC at various official and statutory meetings organized by other components of the Movement. It also organized, jointly with the International Federation, five senior management meetings in which the leadership of both organizations discussed issues of common concern, such as their respective strategic planning.

INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW

The protection of war victims is largely dependent on respect for IHL. In accordance with the mandate conferred upon it by the international community, the ICRC strives to promote compliance with IHL and to contribute to its development.

The ICRC’s capacity to protect and assist persons affected by armed conflict and other situations of violence is substantially enhanced by the 77 headquarters agreements it has signed with the governments of the countries in which it works; the privileges and immunities thus conferred enable the ICRC and its staff to work in an entirely independent manner. In 11 other States, the organization’s privileges and immunities are established by legislation or other arrangements.

The highlights of the Legal Division’s work in 2006 are described in the next section.

PROMOTING THE UNIVERSALITY OF IHL INSTRUMENTS AND THEIR NATIONAL IMPLEMENTATION

If IHL is to be fully respected, it is of paramount importance that States adopt domestic legislation to implement its rules, in particular those relating to the repression of war crimes and to the use and protection of the red cross, red crescent and red crystal emblems and other distinctive signs and signals.

Throughout the year, the ICRC, in particular its Advisory Service on IHL, pursued an active dialogue with national authorities worldwide in order to promote accession to IHL treaties and their national implementation in domestic law and practice. To this end, the ICRC continued to cooperate with international and regional organizations such as the Commonwealth, the League of Arab States, the Organization of American States, the Inter-Parliamentary Union, the Commonwealth of Independent States Inter-Parliamentary Assembly, the Council of Europe and the European Union. It also participated in or organized a number of national and regional conferences, seminars and workshops in order to promote the broadest possible consideration of subjects related to the ratification and implementation of IHL instruments.

Legal and technical advice was provided to governments in many countries seeking to develop domestic legislation, including Argentina, Afghanistan, Benin, Colombia, India, Indonesia, Jamaica, Mexico, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Peru, Serbia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Timor-Leste, Trinidad and Tobago, and Yemen.

The ICRC continued to support and to encourage States to establish national committees for the implementation of IHL. Such committees are an effective means of promoting respect for the law by States; they are made up of representatives from the various ministries and national bodies concerned, and specialists appointed for that purpose. In 2006, national committees were set up in Kuwait, Madagascar, Romania, South Africa and Tunisia, bringing the total number of such bodies to 78. The ICRC provided support for the organization of two regional meetings of national committees: the first, in Athens, was organized in cooperation with the Greek national committee and attended by representatives of committees established across Europe; the second, in Managua, brought together the national committees from Central and South America.

The ICRC also organized a number of events associating governmental experts from various countries and regions. These included a series of regional meetings of government representatives held successively in Cairo, Buenos Aires, Pretoria, Brussels and Hanoi, and devoted to a range of topical issues related to the national implementation of IHL.

Pursuant to UN General Assembly resolution 59/36, “Status of the Protocols Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and relating to the protection of victims of armed conflicts”, the ICRC contributed to the UN Secretary-General’s report on progress and achievements in the implementation of IHL. The UN General Assembly adopted a further resolution on the status of the 1977 Additional Protocols – resolution 61/29 – in the autumn of 2006.

Information on new national legislation and case law relating to IHL continued to be collected and incorporated into the Advisory Service’s database of national legislation. The ICRC also released
a new edition of a DVD containing the full texts of IHL treaties, their status of ratification and examples of national implementa-
tion measures adopted by various States.

The year was marked by a number of other events, described
below.

- Two States (Montenegro and Nauru) acceded to the 1949
  Geneva Conventions. This brought the number of States party
to the Conventions to a total of 194, thus marking the first
time in modern history that an international treaty has
achieved universal acceptance. Four States (Haiti, Montenegro,
Nauru and Sudan) acceded to the 1977 Additional Protocols.
The ICRC continued to encourage States to accept the compe-
tence of the International Fact-Finding Commission pursuant
to Article 90 of Additional Protocol I.

- Nine States (Bulgaria, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland,
  Liechtenstein, Norway, the Netherlands, the Philippines
  and Switzerland) ratified Additional Protocol III, which by
  20 December 2006 had been signed by 75 States.

- In October 2006 the ICRC participated in the first meeting
  of the Committee for the Protection of Cultural Property in
  the Event of Armed Conflict provided for under the Second
  Two States (Bangladesh and Mauritius) acceded to the
  Convention, one State (Bangladesh) to its first Protocol
  and five States (Armenia, Croatia, Niger, Romania and Tajikistan)
to its Second Protocol.

- One State (Montenegro) acceded to the 1989 Convention
  on the Rights of the Child and five States (Australia, Belarus,
  Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Slovakia and Thailand)
to its Optional Protocol.

- Four States (Brunei Darussalam, Cook Islands, Haiti and
  Montenegro) acceded to the Ottawa Convention. The ICRC
  pursued its dialogue with and encouraged States to accede
  to and to fulfil their commitments under the Convention.
  It participated actively in the 7th Meeting of States Parties
  in Geneva, Switzerland, and in a wide range of national and
  regional events on the Convention. It was instrumental in the
  successful adoption by the States party of a process to deal
  with any requests for extensions of mine clearance deadlines
  and of a standard declaration of clearance completion. The
  first mine clearance deadlines under the Convention will
  begin to expire in 2009. The ICRC also published an Arabic-
  language version of Anti-personnel Landmines: Friend or Foe?,
as a basis for dialogue with military circles in the Middle East
  prior to the 2008 Meeting of States Parties in Amman, Jordan.

- Two States (Cameroon and Montenegro) became party
to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons.
  Five States acceded to the revised Framework Convention,
two States to Amended Protocol II, four States to Protocol IV
  and eleven States to Protocol V. Protocol V entered into force
  on 12 November 2006.

- Four States (Chad, Comoros, Montenegro, and Saint Kitts
  and Nevis) acceded to the Rome Statute. The ICRC held
  and participated in various national and regional conferences
  and seminars organized under the auspices of or with the support
  of regional international organizations such as the European
  Union, the Council of Europe and the Organization of
  American States. In November, it attended the fifth session
  of the Assembly of States Parties to the Rome Statute, which
  was held in The Hague.

- One State (Croatia) became party to the 1925 Protocol for the
  Prohibition of the Use of Asphyxiating, Poisonous or Other
  Gases, and of Bacteriological Methods of Warfare.

- Five States (the Central African Republic, Comoros, Djibouti,
  Haiti and Liberia) ratified and one State (Montenegro) acceded
to the 1993 Chemical Weapons Convention.

In line with the recommendations adopted at the 2003 International
Conference of Governmental and non-Governmental Experts on
the Missing and with the Agenda for Humanitarian Action adopted
by the 28th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red
Crescent, the ICRC continued to work on guidelines for national
legislation to prevent persons from becoming unaccounted for as a
result of armed conflict and to protect missing persons and their
families.

Finally, in 2006, the ICRC published A Guide to the Legal Review
of New Weapons, Means and Methods of Warfare – Measures to
was developed in consultation with government experts from 10
countries and sent to all member States of the Conference on
Disarmament, in addition to other key weapons producers or
importers. A seminar on legal reviews of new weapons was organ-
ized in Switzerland and brought together military and civilian
officials from some 25 key weapons producers and importers
from Eastern and Western Europe, North America and Africa.
Similar regional seminars are planned in the coming years.

REAFFIRMING, CLARIFYING AND DEVELOPING IHL

Throughout 2006, the Legal Division attended numerous confer-
ences, seminars and courses and provided States, intergovernmen-
tal organizations, NGOs and other interested persons and bodies
with expertise on a variety of IHL-related topics. The primary aim
of these activities was to promote IHL, to stress the relevance of
its provisions in contemporary armed conflicts, and to explain
the specific role of the ICRC.

Although the ICRC worked in particular on the issues mentioned
below, it also dealt with a number of other topical matters, such as
the protection of IDPs, the protection of women and children in
armed conflict, the protection of journalists, multinational forces
and computer network attacks.

The Legal Division also provided legal advice on a daily basis to
the ICRC’s Department of Operations and to ICRC field delega-
tions, notably regarding confidential representations to parties to
armed conflicts to remind them of their obligations under IHL.

Study on customary international humanitarian law

The Department continued to promote the Study on customary
international humanitarian law, which in 2006 was officially
launched in Africa at the Headquarters of the African Union, in
Addis Ababa. In a follow-up to the Asian launch event of
December 2005, the Study was presented at regional round-tables
on customary IHL in Beijing and Kuala Lumpur. In addition, a
series of national launch events took place in Australia, Bosnia-
Herzegovina, Ireland, New Zealand, Poland and Sri Lanka. Lastly,
the Russian translation of Volume I (Rules) was officially
launched at a conference in Moscow. The Arabic, Chinese, French
and Spanish translations of Volume I have been completed and
will be launched in 2007. In addition to the translation of Volume I,
a summary of the study and the list of rules itself have been translated into numerous other languages (Albanian, Bosnian, Czech, Danish, Dutch, Finnish, Indonesian, Lithuanian, Norwegian, Polish and Turkish). Other such translations are in progress, including Japanese, Thai and Vietnamese.

The Study, the outcome of ten years of work, is unique in that it represents the first global and thorough assessment of customary IHL. It has shown in particular that many treaty-based rules that apply only in international armed conflicts also apply in non-international armed conflicts as customary law. This should ultimately enhance the protection of victims of such conflicts. In 2006, the Study was referred to by national and international courts, by special rapporteurs, and by governments. It is to be expected that this practice will continue and perhaps increase in coming years.

Direct participation in hostilities
In November 2006, the Legal Division, together with the Hague-based TMC Asser Institute, held a fourth informal meeting of experts aimed at exploring the notion of “direct participation in hostilities under IHL”. The need to clarify the status and treatment of civilians who have taken a direct part in hostilities pertains to all types of armed conflicts and has been specifically raised in legal discussions relating to the “war on terror”. The aim of the process, which will be completed in 2007, is to provide interpretive guidance on the notion of “direct participation”.

Improving compliance with IHL
Although the international community has made noteworthy progress in taking preventive action and repressing violations of IHL, there is no doubt that better compliance with IHL during armed conflicts remains a major challenge. In order to address this issue, in 2006 the ICRC completed a summary public version of a document outlining mechanisms that could improve compliance with IHL in non-international armed conflicts by all parties involved. The text, which will be published in 2007, is based on a broader study that was finalized in late 2005. In addition, the ICRC provided further input on ways of activating the European Union Guidelines on promoting compliance with IHL, which were adopted by the Council of the European Union in December 2005. The purpose of the Guidelines is to provide the European Union and its institutions and bodies with tools for promoting respect for IHL.

Air and missile warfare
The ICRC is an active contributor to expert meetings on IHL and air and missile warfare sponsored by the Harvard Program on Humanitarian Policy and Conflict Research, which has launched a major initiative aimed at drafting a manual on air and missile warfare. Its legal experts participated actively in the fifth and sixth substantive meetings, which were held in 2006 in Belgium and Switzerland.

Private military and security companies
The operations of private military/security companies (PMCs/PSCs) in situations of armed conflict remained a matter of lively debate in 2006, both in terms of the activities of these companies and in terms of State, academic and media interest therein. The ICRC pursued its dialogue with such companies and with the States responsible for their actions (i.e. States that hire PMCs/PSCs, States in whose territories the companies operate and States hosting such companies) to ensure all were aware of their responsibilities in relation to IHL. Experts from the Legal Division also participated in numerous external events that addressed the legal issues raised by these companies.

In particular, the ICRC pursued its close cooperation with the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs on a related intergovernmental initiative launched in 2005. The initiative aims to further intergovernmental discussion of the issues raised by the use of PMCs/PSCs, to reaffirm and clarify the existing obligations of States and such companies, and to provide guidance to States in their relationship with PMCs/PSCs. Two meetings bringing together government officials, academic experts and industry representatives were held in 2006. The initiative and the question of PMCs/PSCs is to be brought to the attention of the 30th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent in November 2007.

IHL and human rights law
The ICRC continued throughout 2006 to contribute to the deliberations of the new UN Human Rights Council. It also took part in the final stages of negotiations leading to the adoption by the UN General Assembly of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, producing a number of documents and intervening publicly on several occasions to support the adoption process, in which it had a strong operational interest. The Convention is very much in line with the recommendations of the 2003 International Conference of Governmental and non-Governmental Experts on the Missing. Indeed, the Convention will provide a key means of preventing and punishing enforced disappearances and is a necessary complement to existing norms of human rights and IHL in this respect.

During the 61st session of the UN General Assembly, the ICRC paid particular attention to legal developments, such as the protection of journalists in situations of armed conflict and the ongoing negotiations in the Sixth Committee on the draft comprehensive convention on terrorism. It also continued to take part as an observer in meetings of the Council of Europe’s Committee of Legal Advisers on Public International Law.

The Legal Division pursued efforts to clarify the interplay of IHL and human rights law in protecting victims of violence.

Third Review Conference of the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons
In the preparations leading up to the Third Review Conference of the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons, the ICRC encouraged the States Parties to consider specific issues related to strengthening the Convention. These included the promotion of increased adherence to the Convention and its Protocols, national implementation measures, a substantive review of the entire Convention and its Protocols and the establishment of national mechanisms to review the legality of new weapons. The ICRC also highlighted the importance of effective implementation of Protocol V on Explosive Remnants of War. It invited the States Parties to determine how best to make the Protocol operational so that it achieves its humanitarian objectives.

In its statement at the Review Conference, the ICRC called on all States Parties to address the urgent issue of cluster munitions. Apart from proposals on measures to be taken by States at national level, the ICRC urged States to begin developing a new
international instrument that provides a comprehensive and effective response to the problem of cluster munitions. It offered to host an international expert meeting in early 2007.

**Small arms and light weapons**

To enhance the protection of civilians during and after armed conflicts, the ICRC continued to promote measures aimed at bringing about a long-term reduction in the availability of arms to violators of IHL and at preventing the misuse of weapons. Thanks in part to the ICRC’s efforts, an increasing number of regional and national arms transfer regulations require States to assess whether there is a risk that transferred weapons will be used to violate IHL. A legally binding agreement on small arms controls that includes criteria on respect for IHL, and for which the ICRC provided input, was adopted by the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) in 2006. Prompted by requests from several States, the ICRC also issued a set of guidelines to help exporters conduct assessments of the recipient’s likely respect for IHL.

The ICRC participated actively in the preparation and proceedings of the 2006 Review Conference on the UN Programme of Action on Small Arms and contributed within its areas of expertise to a variety of national and regional initiatives on small arms. It has actively supported proposals to begin work on a global arms trade treaty and has welcomed work begun in 2006 to develop an agreement, within the United Nations framework, on possible international measures to control the activities of arms brokers.

**ARCHIVES**

In line with the ICRC’s policy of greater transparency regarding its history, and to make the wealth of information on record in its archives publicly available, the Archives Division provided the Centro Documental de la Memoria Histórica in Salamanca, Spain, with copies of ICRC archives on the Spanish Civil War, and the United Kingdom Ministry of Defence with copies of lists of Pakistani prisoners of war held by the Japanese during the Second World War.

In 2006, the Archives Division handled 2,500 requests from victims of past armed conflicts and their next-of-kin for official documents such as attestations of detention, mostly related to the Second World War but also concerning the First World War or conflicts that occurred after 1950.

Under the rules governing access to the ICRC’s archives, the organization’s records are subject to a protective embargo for a general period of 40 years and an extended period of 60 years. Hence, records up to 1965 have been opened to the general public for consultation.

The ICRC is aware of the value of its archives for historical research and strives continuously to facilitate access to them and to improve its services. During the year, the Archives Division responded to some 1,000 requests for information on the ICRC’s film and paper archives and received researchers in its reading room for the equivalent of 300 working days. It also responded to 1,000 internal requests from other ICRC units.

The purpose of the organization’s historical research activities is to make its background more widely known. In 2006, work was completed on a third volume of the ICRC’s history, due to be published early in 2007 in French (Catherine Rey, *Histoire du Comité international de la Croix-Rouge (1945-1955): De Yalta à Dien Bien Phu*). In addition to contributing to that publication, members of the historical research team attended meetings of historians and published articles in academic journals.

Reports on all ICRC activities, registers of official decisions and legal and operational correspondence have been stored since 1863, the year when the ICRC was founded. The ICRC submitted a proposal to register the ICRC archives on the First World War in UNESCO’s Memory of the World Register and decided to launch an extensive programme to restore and digitize these archives following the successful completion of a pilot project in 2006.

The Archives Division also continued to create the ICRC’s institutional reference files at headquarters, securing an additional 200 linear metres of records transferred from headquarters support units and from delegations.
The Communication Department seeks to ensure that the ICRC’s mandate and activities are accurately projected to a range of audiences throughout the world and to promote more widespread respect for IHL. Particular emphasis is placed on ensuring that key messages of humanitarian concern are communicated to those who can help or hinder ICRC action, or influence the fate of victims of armed conflicts and other situations of violence. The aim is to strengthen the ICRC’s ability to gain access to and help those most in need. The ICRC engages in both public communication, in order to mobilize key stakeholders to act on pressing humanitarian issues, and operational communication, in order to gain acceptance for its work and access to victims. It also carries out a range of preventive activities which aim to ensure that IHL is integrated into armed forces doctrine, education and training, and into the curricula of schools and universities.

COMMUNICATION DEPARTMENT

The ICRC recognizes the strategic importance of communication and the need to integrate it into all decision-making processes and activities, both at headquarters and in the field.

In 2006, as part of its efforts to prevent violations of IHL, the ICRC continued to focus its educational and promotional activities on those in a position to influence humanitarian action, whether positively or negatively, particularly weapon bearers and opinion leaders. It also continued to train and consolidate its network of field-based communication staff whose role is to support the ICRC’s operational and public communication endeavours at local and regional level and to provide input for communication geared to the international media.

During the same period, the ICRC’s public communication work focused on the human impact of a number of major crises, including the hostilities in Lebanon, the situation in the occupied and autonomous Palestinian territories and flooding and conflict in the Horn of Africa. The ICRC provided the media and other partners with facts and figures on its field operations and appealed to all parties to respect the rules of law protecting people affected by armed conflicts such as those in Afghanistan, Iraq, Sri Lanka and Sudan.

The ICRC also used a range of communication tools to convey key messages relating to its activities for people detained in connection with armed conflict, its efforts to trace missing people and reunite families and its role as an impartial, neutral and independent humanitarian organization.

To reach key audiences worldwide, the organization continued to take a multimedia approach, producing professional communication materials that included regular news footage, and further developing its multilingual website. It also took steps to introduce an Intranet so as to optimize internal information flows.

The ICRC continued to build up its environment-scanning capacity in 2006, both at headquarters and in a number of regional delegations. As a result, its strategic decision-makers at headquarters and in the field were able to draw on wide-ranging media monitoring and analyses of global, regional and thematic trends.

RELATIONS WITH THE MEDIA

The year 2006 saw the media focus on the ongoing conflicts in Sudan, Iraq, the occupied and autonomous Palestinian territories and Afghanistan, as well as on new or resurgent conflicts in Chad, Somalia and Sri Lanka. The conflict in Lebanon in early July probably attracted the most media attention during the year, including the work of the ICRC and the Lebanese Red Cross, which were active across the country from the outset. The issues of US detention at Guantanamo Bay Naval Station in Cuba and at Bagram in Afghanistan, and undisclosed detention in the framework of the “war on terrorism”, were again the focus of much public debate in which IHL featured prominently.

Conversely, the plight of victims of low-intensity conflicts and other situations of violence that affected many other countries throughout the world, including Colombia, Haiti and various parts of the Caucasus, received much less media coverage.
Considerable media interest was generated when the 29th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, held in Geneva in June 2006, amended the Movement’s Statutes to incorporate the additional emblem of the red crystal. This third emblem now has the same status as the red cross and red crescent.

The ICRC’s media relations teams at headquarters in Geneva and in delegations around the world felt the growing impact of global and real-time news coverage and worked more as one global team; ICRC communication hubs in Beijing, Buenos Aires, Cairo, Kuala Lumpur, London, Moscow, Paris and Washington were also increasingly solicited on the full range of ICRC issues.

This trend did not diminish the crucial importance of relations with local media in conflict areas to garner support for humanitarian security and access, relay practical information to beneficiaries and promote respect for IHL.

The ICRC facilitated a number of field visits by journalists and production teams interested in particular operational contexts and humanitarian issues. It also hosted media briefings and round-tables to strengthen the media’s understanding of humanitarian issues and IHL and to foster more and better reporting on the situation of people affected by armed conflict.

Through contacts with leading regional and international media, including regional Arab media based in the Gulf region, the ICRC was able to contribute to the debate on a number of key topics (the continuing relevance of IHL against the backdrop of the “war on terrorism”, the future of impartial, neutral and independent humanitarian action, missing persons, the conduct of hostilities and the protection to be given to detainees).

Together with the Legal Division, the ICRC Press Unit continued to provide expert advice to journalists’ organizations endeavouring to strengthen the protection of media professionals on dangerous assignments. A hotline was also kept open for journalists facing difficulties in the field.

The Press Unit also provided key communication support for four regional conferences on Restoring Family Links held in Nairobi, Kiev, Buenos Aires and Kuala Lumpur as part of the Movement’s efforts to work out a ten-year strategy for strengthening its procedures as applied by the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) in Afghanistan. To enhance understanding of the ICRC’s role and its operational procedures among US officers, the organization introduced a comprehensive dissemination programme that was implemented by a specialized delegate posted in Washington. In addition, the ICRC adopted a strategy setting out its approach to the US military deployed all over the world, in order to ensure a coherent approach towards US forces involved in different conflicts.

Closer contacts were also established with the British and French armed forces, for the same purpose, and relations were further consolidated with military academies and institutes.

In 2006, the ICRC published Understanding Arms Carriers, a booklet designed to give new ICRC delegates a better grasp of the various categories of weapon bearers. The Handbook on the Law of War for Armed Forces was thoroughly revised and updated by an expert. It will be issued as a DVD in 2007 to make it more user friendly.

The organization also drafted guidelines on relations with non-State actors in an effort to establish a dialogue with political and armed groups and to strengthen their acceptance of the ICRC and respect for IHL. It produced a film of interviews with former fighters in different countries talking about their knowledge of and respect for the ICRC and IHL. The film will be ready to use as a dissemination tool for armed groups in 2007.

The San Remo Institute, especially its military department, continued to receive financial and technical assistance and advice from the ICRC. In 2006, some 80 military officers from nearly 30 countries received ICRC scholarships to attend military courses on IHL in San Remo.

In 2006, the ICRC also took part in over ten international military exercises in Europe and elsewhere (Moldova, Senegal). The purpose of the ICRC’s involvement was to ensure that the relevant IHL principles were included in the planning of military scenarios, to convey knowledge of its mandate and activities and to enable the participants to experience simulated situations involving humanitarian workers by taking part in role-playing exercises. The ICRC attended NATO exercises in Turkey (Brilliant Ledger 2, Steadfast) and Norway (Steadfast). It also participated in a major exercise in Thailand (Cobra Gold) organized by the US Pacific Command.

Implementation of the ICRC’s project on missing persons, scheduled to run from 2003 to 2007, was pursued according to plan. Work continued on the implementation of best practices, such as providing means of identification for members of armed forces, communicating with family members and the proper handling of human remains. To collect information for the project, ICRC staff responsible for relations with local armed and security forces conducted a survey of the situation in 39 countries. The organization subsequently produced an information kit containing a booklet, brochures and a CD-ROM, to be used in its efforts to help armed forces prevent and/or resolve the problem of missing persons amongst their personnel and other groups.

DIALOGUE WITH ARMED, SECURITY AND POLICE FORCES, AND OTHER WEAPON BEARERS

The ICRC strives to ensure that the rank and file of armed, security and police forces know and apply IHL and human rights law in their daily practice, and that other weapon bearers respect IHL and support, or refrain from actively opposing, humanitarian action. To this end, it continued to help devise and run IHL and human rights training programmes on IHL and to foster more and better reporting on the situation of people affected by armed conflict.

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REACHING OUT TO DECISION-MAKERS AND OPINION-FORMERS

Academic circles
As the reference organization for IHL, the ICRC continued to provide curriculum input and support for a network of academic institutes and universities identified as training grounds for future leaders and decision-makers. ICRC delegations in the field were also active in developing context-specific course materials for academic circles. In particular, the second English edition of the casebook entitled How Does Law Protect in War?, which became available in January 2006, was promoted as an important teaching aid in universities all over the world. This expanded text provides professors, practitioners and students with the most updated and comprehensive selection of documents on IHL available.

Advanced students and faculty members selected from a wide circle of applicants were able to benefit from intensive IHL courses organized by headquarters in a number of locations (Geneva, Sion and Warsaw). ICRC delegations in the field also reinforced partnerships with universities and higher-education institutes specializing in IHL around the world through events such as courses, symposia, working sessions and moot court competitions.

Youth
The ICRC continued to develop two large-scale programmes for young people in formal education settings – the Exploring Humanitarian Law programme, and the secondary school programme for member countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States. Through these programmes, the ICRC actively promoted the integration of IHL instruction at the secondary school level, working in close cooperation with the educational authorities and National Society of the countries concerned.

By the end of the year, some 70 countries worldwide were working to implement the Exploring Humanitarian Law programme. Four regional programme advisers (covering Latin America, the Middle East and North Africa, Central, Eastern and Southern Europe and Asia) continued to provide guidance to ICRC delegations with a view to guaranteeing a coherent institutional approach to implementation in their regions. They also promoted networking and the exchange of experiences among implementing partners, thereby fostering the building of a community of practice.

To ensure the programme’s success, the ICRC worked with ministries of education and National Societies to consolidate it on the basis of identified best practices while continuing to provide academic, technical and financial assistance for translation, teacher training and materials. To foster the sharing of experience and build confidence, it held several regional and sub-regional meetings with educational authorities and the National Society personnel responsible for introducing the programme at country level.

A European Educational Leadership Seminar on the programme, bringing together educational authorities and National Societies, was co-organized by the ICRC and the Austrian Red Cross in Vienna in May 2006 under the auspices of the Austrian Presidency of the Council of the European Union. The seminar served to strengthen the commitment of the 30 participating countries to the Exploring Humanitarian Law programme and to jump-start the implementation process.

With funding from the government of the Netherlands, the ICRC developed the Exploring Humanitarian Law Virtual Campus, an internet-based support structure for the programme, in 2006. The Virtual Campus aims to provide teachers at secondary level with programme-related news, information, teaching aids and distance-learning tools. The pilot site was tested with a group of some 120 teachers. On the basis of their feedback, the site will be further developed and launched in early 2007.

Other civil society target groups

In cooperation with the Harvard Program on Humanitarian Policy and Conflict Research, a course on IHL and current conflicts was designed and organized for policy-makers and practitioners from around the world concerned with the role of IHL in the work of governments, international organizations and humanitarian NGOs. ICRC delegations organized similar courses at the national and regional level.

The ICRC Visitors’ Service continued to raise awareness of the ICRC and IHL and to liaise with present and future decision-makers and opinion-leaders, welcoming nearly 10,000 people to ICRC headquarters. Following a stakeholder-mapping exercise, the Service worked to strengthen its interaction with key stakeholders for the ICRC and develop its networking function.

COMMUNICATION RESEARCH AND METHODOLOGY

The ICRC continued to work closely with academic circles specializing in research on armed conflict and preventing violations of IHL and other fundamental rules that protect people in situations of violence. In particular, the results of the ICRC study, The Roots of Behaviour in War, were further integrated into the ICRC’s strategies and operations.

Using an interdisciplinary approach, the organization set out to define the prevention arm of its operations in relation to the protection of people affected by armed conflict in particular, but also as part of the overall ICRC humanitarian response, including assistance operations and cooperation with other components of the Movement. Policy guidelines on the ICRC’s prevention activities were drafted in 2006 for approval in 2007.

In particular, the ICRC set out to establish a monitoring and evaluation framework for its work on preventing violations of IHL in the field. This long-term project is part of the organization’s overall efforts to enhance accountability to donors and beneficiaries by means of results-based management.
PREVENTIVE MINE-ACTION OPERATIONS

The aim of the ICRC's preventive mine-action operations is to ensure that the Movement has the skills and capacity to reduce the incidence of death and injury and to limit the socio-economic impact caused by landmines and explosive remnants of war. To achieve this aim, the ICRC draws on a wide range of skills and capacities from within the Movement, capitalizing on local National Society networks wherever possible. Activities are adapted to each context, but normally include a flexible combination of incident data-gathering, mine-risk education and mine-risk reduction (alternative water and fuel sources), safe play areas for children, and other practical measures. The ICRC also works to halt the use of anti-personnel mines and to encourage those responsible to cooperate in locating and clearing contaminated areas.

In 2006, the ICRC developed a mine-action management handbook and a mine-action training package which will become available early in 2007. Mine-action elements were integrated into relevant guidelines, toolboxes, policies, training and procedures in accordance with the integration plan finalized in November 2005. In the field, the ICRC continued to review existing operations and realign them with the preventive mine-action framework.

The ICRC held consultations with National Societies active internationally and National Societies concerned with mine action operations in their own countries with a view to creating synergies and implementing a common approach. Steps were also taken to integrate an emergency response vision, including the incorporation of clearance cooperation, into the Movement’s mine-action emergency response capacity.

SUPPORT FOR COMMUNICATION IN THE FIELD

In 2006, headquarters support for communication in the field concentrated on reinforcing the delegations’ capacity to integrate communication into their operations, through sharper analysis and better definition of priorities. Seven regional meetings were held in conjunction with the relevant operational units to take stock of communication challenges, strengthen regional identities in the direction desired and adapt existing strategies. A dozen support missions were carried out to priority delegations, such as Sudan, Pakistan and Iraq, and to contexts with emerging communication challenges and opportunities, for example in the Near East, India and the Central African Republic. Serious steps were taken to start collecting and systematizing delegation practices in the field of operational communication, with a view to providing support to delegations confronted with particular acceptance problems.

The Department opened a full-time training position, broadening the communication training output during the year: eight courses were organized in the field and at headquarters, the regular production supervision and media relations courses were reviewed and consolidated, and three new courses were launched to respond to previously identified needs: basic communication (including analysis and planning) for newly appointed communication staff, operational communication in major delegations (first experience in Sudan) and media relations for senior management staff. The Department also provided support for other institutional courses for new delegates and headquarters staff.

The environments in which the ICRC operates are becoming increasingly complex and information circulates more widely and swiftly than ever before, so operational responses must systematically take into account the communication dimension. The management of communication staff in the field is therefore of growing strategic importance. In these circumstances, ensuring the deployment of competent and well-adapted staff without any gaps in coverage throughout 2006 proved a daunting challenge. An internal study was launched of communication human resources in the field, with a view to improving the Department’s ability to manage staff in a forward-looking way.

In 2006, further steps were taken to monitor perceptions of the ICRC and humanitarian action, in order to ensure focused communications to bridge the gap between the ICRC’s (or Movement’s) desired and perceived identities, for the benefit of the victims. Thematic studies were carried out on the perception of the emblem in the Middle East and on the perception of the “red cross” by the Muslim population in Nigeria with a view to enhancing respect of and support for activities of the Movement components. New approaches were developed to ensure fuller account is taken of the Movement’s identity when working out positioning strategies and to support National Society communication based on enhanced understanding of their image within their national constituencies. Efforts in these directions will continue in 2007.

RESEARCH SERVICE, LIBRARY AND INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

Research

The research service helps the ICRC achieve the best possible understanding of its operational and institutional environment. To that end, it uses a range of tools and internal and external resources to scan media and other public sources of information for feedback.

The research service also provides comprehensive information on the contexts in which the organization operates and offers guidance on sources of information. It plays an essential role in providing context-specific information for delegates before their departure for the field, and in drawing their attention to the services and information sources they can have access to while on a field assignment.

An increasingly structured and systematic approach to tracking external trends and issues enabled the research service to provide the ICRC’s management and operational staff in particular with pertinent and timely information throughout 2006. A range of standard products (The ICRC in the Press, Information Bulletin and regular press reviews) were produced on a regular schedule and distributed electronically both at headquarters and in the field.

The service also provided documentary support for ICRC field operations in the form of ad hoc thematic and context-related research and environment-scanning products, issued on request or in response to events of particular significance for the ICRC and its work. It cooperated closely with four regional delegations to enhance the ICRC’s capacity to monitor issues by drawing on local, regional and international sources.
**Library and information management**

Through its library and related services, the ICRC promotes knowledge of its role as a reference organization for IHL and of its mandate and operations among students, teachers, civil society, the media and the general public by providing access to its collection of over 140,000 items (books, periodicals, photographs and videos). An online catalogue is accessible through the ICRC’s website.

Specifications for an electronic document management system were drawn up and integrated into the specifications for the third-generation ICRC website (Web 3G) with a view to the creation of an online electronic library.

In 2006, the ICRC completed a two-year programme to digitalize its photograph collection. This is the first step in a project to launch a web version of the entire photograph catalogue, which will be integrated into Web 3G. An acquisition policy for photographs was drawn up within the framework of a broader audiovisual production policy and record management strategy.

The outline plans for an ICRC Intranet were finalized and specifications for the content-management tools and design drawn up and put to tender together with the specifications for Web 3G.

**PRODUCTION, WEB AND DISTRIBUTION**

Developing, producing and promoting credible, functional and consistent products together with updated and interesting web content are key elements of ICRC communication. In 2006, some 40 new print and audiovisual products were completed, 3,500 web pages created and nearly 5,000 DVD, video, print and multimedia orders processed.

Corporate visual guidelines were implemented, with templates for field publications to help delegations to produce publications more easily. The production team undertook an extensive analysis of ICRC production trends over the past five years, with a view to issuing recommendations for future productions. The recommendations that emerged from the study are: to base the content more on personal stories and focus on audiovisuals; to produce shorter texts and series for coherence and better impact; to create more multimedia products; and to conduct usability studies. The film *Where are they now?* and the manual *Water and Sanitation in Prisons* were both analysed in 2006. The feedback for both products was very positive overall.

Looking specifically at possible synergies between headquarters and the field, it was possible to identify a need for stronger global (headquarters/field) planning and regional/local adaptations. There is also clearly a need for a simple methodology for evaluating the use and impact of products in the field.

To prepare for the migration to Web 3G in 2007, the web team conducted several workshops to identify priority content and services, finalized the editorial policy, started work on the new design and defined the main requirements for the future Content Management System. It also identified and reserved domain names relating to the Red Cross, Red Crescent and Red Crystal worldwide.

The number of ICRC institutional sites grew from six to seven when the Chinese-language website went online in August. Consultation of the ICRC website continued to rise with traffic across sites increasing by 45% from January to December reaching a total 107 million page visits in 2006. The number of hits peaked in March on International Women’s Day, when drought ravaged the Horn of Africa and when the International Tracing Service decided to open its archives. Generally speaking, however, the pages most consulted throughout the year were the IHL treaties and databases. A more sophisticated version of the statistical tool “Web Trends” was implemented and tested in December.

**MARKETING**

The ICRC completed two large-scale research projects. The first was conducted in six countries in the Middle East to measure perceptions of and attitudes towards humanitarian action, the humanitarian environment, the ICRC and the emblems. The findings are being integrated into communication and operational strategies at regional and local level.

The second was designed to enable the ICRC to narrow in on its key target groups at the regional and global levels and to understand their communication needs. Research conducted in four key countries resulted in detailed stakeholder mapping. The results are being used to determine if gaps exist in communication and how they can be addressed.

In addition, the ICRC participated for the third year in a row in the annual Gallup Voice of the People omnibus survey, which measured views and attitudes towards neutrality. The results provided an incisive view from global, regional and country-specific perspectives.
The finishing touches were put to the ICRC TV spot and press ad on detention, “Abuse Grows Hatred”. EuroNews donated air time and the spot appeared for two weeks. In addition, French and English language publications offered to print the advertisement, which was also featured on www.icrc.org, at no cost.

Considerable research was conducted into the phenomenon of blogs, examining what they mean for the ICRC in terms of monitoring, interaction and participation, and subsequently developed an institutional public communication policy on blogs.

The ICRC participated in the Young Creatives Competition at the Cannes Lions International Advertising Festival, in which teams were challenged to create a print ad and web banner within 24 hours on the theme of Restoring Family Links. The ICRC has been able to use the entries in its communication.

The organization continued to promote the full range of its publications and films, with particular emphasis on developing the institution’s e-marketing capabilities. In addition, www.icrc.org was promoted to enhance its positioning on the web.

Strategies were drawn up for the library and research centre in preparation for the launch of the online photo catalogue.

**MULTILINGUAL COMMUNICATION**

In keeping with the universal dimension of its independent and humanitarian role, the ICRC communicates with a wide range of actors and audiences at the local, regional and international levels. To do so, not only does it deploy field interpreters in a number of operational contexts, it adopts a multilingual approach to public communication. This is exemplified by the ICRC website, which features the world’s main global and regional languages (Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish).

In 2006, some seven million words were processed at headquarters using internal and external resources. The ICRC’s language staff and their external partners edited, translated and proofread a wide range of public communication materials (media products and materials for the ICRC website, publications, donor documentation and public statements) as well as documents of a legal and operational nature.
The Human Resources Department is responsible for ensuring that the ICRC has a sufficient pool of trained staff to meet its operational needs worldwide. It recruits, trains and supervises the career development of staff. Its policies are geared towards raising professional standards, developing the particular skills required for humanitarian work and promoting and supporting management of staff through its professional hierarchy. The Department strives to promote internal cohesion within the ICRC by encouraging staff to identify with the organization’s visions and objectives. The ICRC is an equal opportunity employer.

HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

The Human Resources Department recruits staff, plans their assignments and supervises their management and career development. In 2006, an average of 10,174 delegation employees (daily workers not included) and 1,509 expatriates were working in the field.

MEETING FUTURE CHALLENGES

In response to staff expectations and the demands placed on the organization by an increasingly complex and unpredictable environment, the ICRC continued to implement RH2006, an ambitious programme launched in 2004 to restructure human resource management and improve the development of staff skills and the management of assignments.

The career assessment commissions that provide career guidance to middle and senior managers gave 95 managers feedback in 2006. Furthermore, owing to the existence of a pool of personnel, no more than one or two per cent of field posts were ever vacant at any one time.

Another aim of RH2006 is to improve the management of delegation employees, who represent 80% of ICRC personnel, by providing them with greater opportunities to develop their skills. In 2006 the Department adjusted its management policy and began work on putting it into practice.

The project launched by the Department in 2005 to replace its 12-year-old IT tool made steady progress. All human resource management processes were assessed in depth with a view to adapting the new IT system selected in 2005 to the specific needs of the ICRC. The new system will be deployed in 2007.

CONSOLIDATING THE RECRUITMENT BASE

In 2006 the ICRC remained a very attractive employer. The number of job applicants increased to more than 6,000. The need for first mission delegates fell slightly, however, and the number of newly hired staff therefore decreased accordingly (280 in 2006 as opposed to 300 in 2005). As was the case the previous year, priority was given to applicants with knowledge of Arabic.

STAFF DIVERSITY

In keeping with the ICRC’s policy of enhancing the international character of its expatriate staff, 76% of newly recruited delegates came from countries other than Switzerland. Overall, 59% of expatriates were non-Swiss.

Fifty-seven per cent of the delegates recruited in 2005 were women. However, women were still underrepresented among senior field staff, although the proportion increased to 20%, up from 5% in 1995. The Directorate adopted a policy on gender equality, setting clear targets for the promotion of women to senior positions. Efforts were made through the career assessment commissions and other means to identify and encourage women with the potential to take up such positions.
In 2006, the Department’s senior managers validated a new reference framework for ICRC training. Major innovations include the establishment of a steering group and a board of trainers to improve the coherence of all training activities within the organization.

Final preparations took place for the launch of the management course entitled “People Leadership in Management”. A group of senior managers will attend the first session in January 2007. Over the coming four years, more than 600 middle and senior managers will take part, including all ICRC directors.

The ICRC continued to reassess its introductory training course – the “integration course” – to adapt it to changes in the organization’s operational environment. In 2006, 500 people – all newly recruited expatriates and a number of delegation employees – attended a session of the course either at headquarters or at one of the decentralized training units in Amman, Colombo, Dakar and Nairobi.

In addition, 469 managers attended various in-house training courses covering such diverse topics as leadership, security and stress management, train-the-trainer methods, communication and presentation techniques.
The Department of Resources and Operational Support provides support for field operations in terms of finance, administration, logistics and information systems. It is also responsible for raising and managing funds for the ICRC as a whole. It works closely with the Department of Operations to support field activities, while at the same time maintaining close contact with donors so as to keep them abreast of ICRC financial requirements. The Department conducts regular reviews to ensure that the support it provides to the field is in line with operational needs and verifies compliance by ICRC delegations with institutional procedures.

**DEPARTMENT OF RESOURCES AND OPERATIONAL SUPPORT**

In 2006 the Department was mobilized to full capacity in response to the large-scale emergencies in Pakistan-administered Kashmir, resulting from the earthquake, and in Lebanon and Israel, as a result of the war in the summer. Human resources from both headquarters and field delegations were sent to Pakistan and later to the Middle East to set up the logistics, communication and other infrastructure needed to ensure that aid and protection were provided as effectively as possible.

Financial forecasting was a particular challenge in 2006. As estimated, expenditure was high as from early spring, far exceeding anticipated income. A cost-cutting plan was therefore implemented for the field and headquarters in the second half of the year, and special fundraising efforts were undertaken in order to reduce financial risk to an acceptable level.

Projects to improve overall risk management and the internal control system were initiated towards the end of the year.

**FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION**

**Financial management**
The purpose of financial management is to provide the ICRC with reliable and cost-effective information, enabling it to make sound financial decisions.

In 2006, efforts focused on:
- further improving financial reporting to field delegations;
- mitigating the financial risks related to a forecast deficit;
- preparing for changes in Swiss law related to external audits, which will affect the 2007 financial statements;
- participating in the call for tenders for external auditors and preparing the handover;
- further streamlining the financial-control framework and methodology and related responsibilities;
- deploying the accounting software in all delegations in early 2007;
- launching an institution-wide data warehouse for reporting purposes.

**Infrastructure management**
The purpose of infrastructure management is to make sure the necessary office space is available and to ensure long-term maintenance of the entire infrastructure at a reasonable cost.

The second phase of the structural security upgrade at headquarters was completed in 2006.

The ICRC continued to face a shortage of working space and made final plans to start building an extension in 2007. Consideration was given to replacing the current logistics centre in Geneva, Switzerland.

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

In 2006 a call for tenders was completed for outsourced mailroom services.

**FUNDING**

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

**Budgets**

The initial budget appeals for 2006, launched by the ICRC in December 2005, totalled CHF 1,049.2 million. This was CHF 77.4 million higher than the preceding year’s overall initial budget. The largest increase was in the Emergency Appeals for ICRC field operations, which amounted to CHF 895.3 million in 2006, compared with CHF 819.7 million in 2005. The Headquarters Appeals also registered a small increase, totalling CHF 153.9 million in 2006 compared with CHF 152.1 million in 2005.

In the course of the year, donors were informed of no less than seven budget extensions, drawn up in response to unforeseen events and substantial humanitarian needs following the outbreak or resurgence of conflicts in areas covered by the following ICRC delegations: Israel and the Occupied and Autonomous Territories, Lebanon, Somalia, Sri Lanka (2), Suva (regional) for Timor-Leste and Yaoundé (regional) for the Central African Republic.

The implementation rate 1 for the activities the ICRC had planned to carry out in order to meet its objectives for the year was lower than in previous years, with expenditure reaching 86.2% of the overall final Emergency Appeals budget. This was largely due to the capacity of the Pakistani authorities to assist their own population in earthquake-devastated areas and to a lasting ceasefire in Lebanon.

**Contributions**

- **Total contributions received in 2006:** CHF 943.2 million

Funding sources and patterns were not the same as in 2005, which had been marked by the impact of natural disasters in sensitive areas where the ICRC was already active. In 2006, the proportion of support from governments increased again to 79.8% (2005: 72.7%; 2004: 80.1%; 2003: 79.9%) and that from National Societies fell to 8.6% (2005: 13.1%; 2004: 5.2%; 2003: 6%). Funding received from the European Commission accounted for 9.0% (2005: 9.4%; 2004: 10.3%; 2003: 8.8%), while contributions from various other public and private sources decreased significantly in amount and proportion, to 2.5% (2005: 4.8%; 2004: 4.3%; 2003: 4.3%). This confirms that National Societies, private sources and the public in general respond more generously to natural disasters.

The United States remained the ICRC’s largest donor. It accounted for 23.1% (CHF 217.6 million) of all contributions received and 24.9% (CHF 202.3 million) of funding for field operations. The United Kingdom’s Department for International Development (DFID) and the British Red Cross signed a new partnership agreement with the ICRC to cover the period 2006–10. Under the agreement, the DFID made a non-earmarked contribution of CHF 80 million for the coming four years. For the period January to December 2006, the non-earmarked contribution amounted to CHF 38.4 million, bringing the United Kingdom’s total contribution to CHF 97.9 million. Switzerland was, as in 2005, the third largest donor (CHF 97.1 million, including 65 million for the ICRC’s headquarters budget). The European Commission remained the ICRC’s fourth largest donor (CHF 84.9 million), followed by the Netherlands government (CHF 61.9 million) and the Swedish government (CHF 54.6 million).

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

The ICRC’s Donor Support Group (DSG) – made up of those governments contributing more than CHF 10 million in cash annually – comprised 16 members in 2006, namely the governments of Australia, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, Norway, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and the United States, and the European Commission. The 2006 meeting of the DSG was hosted by the Swiss government. In accordance with the levels of their 2006 contributions, in 2007 Luxembourg will join the group, and Finland will return.

**Contributions in response to the Headquarters Appeal**

A total of CHF 126.5 million was received in contributions for the headquarters budget: 118.7 million from 81 governments, 5.5 million from 59 National Societies and 2.3 million from a number of other private and public sources.

**Contributions in response to the Emergency Appeals**

In total, CHF 634.0 million were provided for ICRC field operations by 35 governments, 84.9 million by the European Commission, 75.3 million by 36 National Societies, 1.3 million by a variety of supranational and international organizations, and 21.2 million by public and private sources such as the Parthenon Trust, Rotary International, Soroptimist International and the Union of European Football Associations.

- **Cash component** CHF 786.8 million (2005: 785.2 million; 2004: 609 million; 2003: 731 million)
- **In-kind component** CHF 16.7 million (2005: 24.8 million; 2004: 9.7 million; 2003: 23.4 million)
- **Services** CHF 13.2 million (2005: 17.7 million; 2004: 10.6 million; 2003: 17.8 million)
- **Assets** CHF 0.04 million (2005: 1 million; 2004: 0.8 million; 2003: 1.5 million)

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1) Implementation rate = field expenditure (in cash, kind and services) divided by final field budget (excluding contingency), multiplied by 100
Flexibility in funding
Specific donor requirements in terms of earmarking and reporting were generally the same in 2006 as in previous years.

To meet needs effectively, it is essential for the ICRC to enjoy flexibility in the use of its funds, particularly in relation to earmarking and reporting. Earmarking remained at the level of past years and, as in the past, was often accompanied by both rigorous project implementation timetables and stringent specific-reporting conditions. Experience has shown, for instance in the Central African Republic or in Lebanon, that there is a direct correlation between flexible funding policies and the ability of the ICRC to maintain its independence and capacity to react quickly.

At 28.4% in 2006, the proportion of non-earmarked cash contributions (“core funding”) made in response to the ICRC’s Emergency and Headquarters Appeals was higher than in 2005 (25.3%) but lower than in 2004 (31.5%). Apart from certain private donations, the majority of non-earmarked funds for both the Emergency Appeals and the Mine Action Special Appeal came from eight governments (Belgium, Denmark, France, Ireland, the Netherlands, Norway, Spain and the United Kingdom), and the canton of Geneva.

Cash contributions loosely earmarked for a given region, country or programme represented about 55.7% (CHF 507.3 million) of the total. Of this amount, CHF 117 million (12.8% of total cash contributions) represented earmarked funding received primarily from the United States.

Predictability in funding
The ICRC’s system of funding does not rely on set (statutory) contributions. Moreover, its programmes are implemented according to needs and are not contingent on the level of contributions received or pledged. The organization relies on donors to provide the funding it needs to achieve its objectives through the programmes it plans to implement in a given year. To minimize financial risks, the ICRC seeks, on the one hand, to be realistic in terms of its objectives and budgets and, on the other, to ensure a degree of predictability with respect to funding. Ideally, it needs funding commitments from donor countries spanning several years, and in fact it already has such agreements with Belgium, Switzerland and the United Kingdom.

The ICRC is aware that donor planning constraints and national budget and finance regulations do not allow donors easily to commit themselves over the medium term, as the ICRC would prefer. Nevertheless, it will continue to seek ways of obtaining longer-term funding commitments. Clear indications from donors early in the year regarding the annual level of funding and the timing of their transfers would facilitate financial planning and reduce risk.

From the one-year perspective, predictability of funding improved in 2006, in large part owing to arrangements made early in the year with Belgium, the Netherlands, Sweden, the United Kingdom, the United States and – in the case of the headquarters budget – Switzerland.

Diversity in the donor base
Despite continuous efforts to broaden its donor base, the ICRC remained concerned about the slow progress made towards enlarging the range of its main financial contributors. In view of its universal mandate and worldwide activities, the organization would like to be able to count on the broadest possible support in Asia and in the Middle East. While the general data provided above would at first appear to indicate broad support in terms of the level and number of sources, a closer look reveals that the ICRC is reliant on a relatively small number of key donors for the bulk of its funding.

Contributions were received from 70 National Societies (2005: 89; 2004: 71; 2003: 72), with the top 10 accounting for 83% (2005: 86.8%; 2004: 82.4%; 2003: 78.2%) of the total of CHF 80.8 million in contributions received from National Societies – a sharp fall from the previous year.

As for contributions received for field operations, 35 governments (2005: 29; 2004: 32; 2003: 35) and the European Commission responded to the Emergency Appeals.

The ICRC also sees the private sector as a stakeholder in its work. The ICRC and a group of selected Swiss companies set up a Corporate Support Group (CSG) in 2005, establishing an innovative and long-term partnership. The founding members of the CSG are: ABB Asea Brown Boveri Ltd, Lombard Odier Darier Hentsch & Cie, F. Hoffmann La Roche Ltd., Swiss Reinsurance Company, Vontobel Group, Fondation Hans Wilsdorf and Zurich Financial Services. The first plenary meeting of the CSG was held in November 2006.

Members of the CSG provide additional sources of funding for the ICRC, thereby increasing the private-sector component of ICRC financing. Their contributions support either the operational activities of the ICRC or the training of its staff.

Reporting to donors
The ICRC kept donors informed of its activities through a variety of documents and publications. In December 2005, it launched its 2006 Emergency and Headquarters Appeals, which were followed in the course of the year by seven budget-extension appeals.

### Resources and Operational Support

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Funding Type</th>
<th>Contributions (CHF)</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>82 governments</td>
<td>837.6 million</td>
<td>88.8%</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>and the European Commission</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(2005: 82.1%; 2004: 90.4%; 2003: 88.7%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>Top 10 governments</td>
<td>721.4 million</td>
<td>76.5%</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>including the European Commission</td>
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<td></td>
<td>(2005: 72.5%; 2004: 78.5%; 2003: 71.2%)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>Top five governments</td>
<td>559.4 million</td>
<td>59.3%</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>including the European Council</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(2005: 58.3%; 2004: 61.3%; 2003: 58.1%)</td>
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Overall ICRC funding (CHF 943.2 million)
It reported to donors on all its field operations by means of the Midterm Report, which covers field operations in the first and second quarters. The third and fourth quarters are covered by the country reports contained in the present Annual Report. These reports discuss progress achieved for each target population in the light of the objectives set out in the Emergency Appeals for 2006. They are result-based whenever possible and include the standard figures and indicators about ICRC activities by context introduced in the 2005 Annual Report.

Financial updates were similarly provided on a quarterly basis. In September the ICRC issued its Renewed Emergency Appeal, which presented the overall funding situation for field operations, including contributions received by that time.

Donors were kept abreast of the main developments in ICRC operations in 39 updates covering a wide range of operations and in the Special Report on Mine Action in 2005.

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

**INFORMATION SYSTEMS**

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

The Division considered 2006 a year of transition, with numerous large projects still under development for deployment in 2007. After the Division’s reorganization in 2005, many activities were dedicated to reinforcing processes and documentation, in compliance with best practice frameworks. A new project life cycle was adopted for application and infrastructure development. The IT strategy was smoothly modified to adapt it to the new challenges facing the institution.

The security concept and infrastructure were updated at headquarters to facilitate permanent worldwide IP connections and mitigate the risk inherent in such connections.

The basics of a DRP (disaster recovery plan) were identified and built to optimize system availability, with all services in the infrastructure benefitting from network redundancy. Final steps were taken to virtualize servers for development and test environments, and the Lotus Notes 6.5 upgrade was completed at headquarters.

Measures were taken to deploy the new server infrastructure, comprising the Lotus Notes upgrade, for the field. New backup and retrieval concepts were implemented, enabling the organization to react more quickly to failures. In addition, new tools were developed for employees to facilitate the management of restrictive administrative access.

Numerous software applications were deployed in the field to upgrade management in the areas of human resources, logistics, water and habitat, budgets, accounting and ICRC vehicle control and maintenance.

Major strategic software applications continued to be analysed and developed to improve the management of human resources at headquarters, the "Donation to Distribution" process, assistance activities and the ante-mortem database, and with a view to introducing a new version of the website and a corporate Intranet. Information technology capacity and processes for emergency situations continued to be upgraded, drawing on lessons learnt from operations conducted after the south Asia earthquake, the Lebanon conflict and the crisis in Sri Lanka.

Finally, assessments were made for the new professional mail system currently being developed.

**LOGISTICS**

A network on a global scale

The ICRC runs a worldwide logistics network. Thanks to the range of services available – from air freight to vehicle workshops – the organization is able to maintain field operations and to take rapid and effective action in emergencies. In 2006 it operated 3,500 vehicles and trucks, two vessels, 300 warehouses and over 15 aircraft.

In 2006 the ICRC had about 140 expatriate logistics experts plus crews, drivers and convoy leaders working in some 30 relief operations; they were backed up by more than 2,000 national staff worldwide. Half of the expatriate staff came from countries other than Switzerland and many ICRC national staff volunteered for short missions to support large-scale emergency operations abroad. The finishing touches were put to specialist training in all logistics functions. The level of recruitment was maintained and higher standards were applied.

During the year there were three major logistical undertakings.

- In response to the Lebanon crisis, the ICRC set up a combined air, sea and road operation to transport National Society and ICRC relief supplies to Lebanon and the Syrian Arab Republic through Amman (Jordan), Larnaca (Cyprus) and Mersin (Turkey), with the support of its logistics bases in Amman, Geneva and Nairobi (Kenya). A worldwide shipping operation managed from Geneva with the support of the Amman and Nairobi logistics centres transported relief supplies to Beirut, Damascus, Sidon and Tyre.
- While the emergency logistics set-up in Pakistan was dismantled (vehicle fleet, air operation and warehousing), the ICRC continued to mobilize extensive logistical and human resources to carry out substantial and complex distributions of food aid in remote areas of Darfur, Sudan.
- In response to the Somali floods and to the conflict crises in the occupied and autonomous Palestinian territories and in Chad, the ICRC bolstered its logistics network to provide relief and surgical supplies with the support of its logistics bases in Nairobi and Geneva.

In 2006, many ICRC logistics staff remained mobilized for emergency operations. In order to minimize operational costs, the ICRC maintained technical and operational links during the year with WFP and other UN organizations, as well as with the International Federation and other Movement components; it was thus able to enhance logistics coordination during emergencies and to conduct further studies on the use of emergency-response logistics units.
After a lengthy development process, the ACCPAC supply system was successfully deployed in Geneva and Nairobi.

The Air Operation Safety system was fully implemented and all ICRC operators were audited.

The most recent complex emergencies (Lebanon and Pakistan) were analysed and conclusions drawn to improve ICRC emergency response.

**Working in harmony with partners**

ICRC logistics operations in Lebanon received invaluable support from National Society emergency response units integrated into ICRC structures. In addition, the logistics structures set up in Larnaca and Mersin, backed up by the Amman logistics centre, provided essential support for the Movement’s operation and enabled it to avoid duplication.

The ICRC strengthened its working relations with various agencies in the UN system. In responding to the complex emergencies in Chad, Lebanon, Somalia and Sudan (Darfur), it maintained constant dialogue with the UN Joint Logistics Centre (UNJLC) and Logistics Cluster members, in particular regarding air and sea operations, security, fuel supplies and rates for transportation and warehousing. The advantages for each organization were to ensure that logistics infrastructure was not unnecessarily duplicated, to maximize efficiency, and to coordinate approaches and promote information-sharing in the field and at headquarters.

In close coordination with the International Federation, ICRC logistics staff participated actively in the UNJLC Logistics Cluster Group and met regularly with other leading logistics players.

The new Certified Humanitarian Logistics Training Programme agreed at inter-agency level (WFP, UNICEF, UNHCR, ICRC, Médecins sans frontières, Oxfam, Care, etc.) was successfully launched in 2006.
CONFLICT ENVIRONMENTS AND CHALLENGES FOR HUMANITARIAN ACTION

The year 2006 was marked by the intensification of a number of conflicts and widespread violence that resulted in untold suffering for countless children, women and men. Although some conflicts attracted a steady stream of attention and debate, for many working in the humanitarian field it has at times proved difficult to convey a real sense of what war means for those who endure its manifold consequences.

Iraq was a particularly telling example of this dramatic reality, with daily reports of atrocious killings, increasingly the result of sectarian violence. Some 6,000 people were reported killed in Baghdad and Central Iraq during the months of July and August 2006 alone. Because such numbers are beyond most people’s comprehension, the individuals behind them remain anonymous and the impact on their families unseen.

The same applied to the innumerable other people affected by conflict around the world, including civilians, detainees, displaced people, women and girls or relatives of missing persons in places such as Central Asia, Chad, Colombia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Haiti, Israel and the Palestinian territories, Lebanon, Myanmar, Nepal, the Northern Caucasus, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Sudan (Darfur) and Uganda.

Many conflicts in 2006 were characterized by varied and often intertwined or overlapping forms of confrontation with local, regional and global implications and involvement. These included a limited number of inter-State wars and a growing number of highly complex internal conflicts involving a multiplicity of actors with diverse motives and a broad range of grievances.

The year was also characterized by the continuing rise in influence of non-State actors, whose role has sparked much debate in recent years. While they have long been a feature of internal conflicts, non-State actors tended in the past to be limited in number in any given context and to take the form of guerrilla or national liberation movements engaged in classic insurrection-type hostilities. Over the past year, however, the trend in several conflict zones has been for non-State actors to regularly fragment into different sub-factions under new commands or into loosely organized entities. Some assumed transnational proportions, coming into confrontation with certain States at a global level. Acts of “terrorism” and counter-“terrorist” operations were again a feature of this growing phenomenon.

Economic factors continued to weigh heavily on conflict dynamics, as competition persisted for access to markets and critical natural resources such as oil and certain players indulged in various forms of economic predation. The reality in many countries remained the weakness or generalized collapse of public-sector services such as health, water supply and social welfare.

Globally, developments in conflict-prone environments were reinforced by the widespread proliferation of weapons, environmental degradation, the scarcity of agricultural land and water, and migration from rural to urban settings. The latter contributed to an increase in new forms of urban violence, often blurring the distinction between political violence and criminality.

Current conflicts tend to be long, drawn out, chronic in nature and, in several instances, of low intensity. But even such low-intensity conflicts had a far-reaching impact on civilians, both in terms of the numbers killed, injured, detained, separated from their families or missing and the indirect consequences whereby, for example, people in urgent need of medical care could not reach health facilities because of the fighting.

The interconnection between many of the factors described above, both local and global, continued to complicate the analysis of specific and overall situations and the formulation of appropriate responses. The overriding challenge was and will remain properly to understand the diversity of situations of conflict and violence, and to address the multiple needs of the people affected in a meaningful way.
OPERATIONS: REVIEW, APPROACH AND THEMATIC CHALLENGES

In 2006, the ICRC continued to conduct operations in a wide variety of conflict zones. It was present with 12,000 staff members in highly diverse and often sensitive, unpredictable and dangerous environments.

Throughout the year, the ICRC combined its commitment to alleviate human suffering caused by long-term, often neglected crises in countries such as the Central African Republic, Chad, Haiti, Nepal, Somalia and Yemen with prompt action in response to emerging or sudden humanitarian crises in Israel and the occupied and autonomous territories, Lebanon, Sri Lanka and Timor-Leste, among others.

As in previous years, ICRC field operations responded to diverse needs and situations. Access to populations in conflict zones remained a pressing concern. Visits to detainees took place according to standard ICRC procedures in around 80 different countries. However, differences between the ICRC and the authorities concerned with respect to access to security detainees in Myanmar and the Russian Federation remained unresolved. Tracing and family-links services again proved vital in, for example, enabling family members to visit relatives held in places of detention in Iraq and Israel or to be reunited with relatives in the DRC or Sri Lanka.

The ICRC further intensified its efforts to resolve the issue of missing persons. For the relatives, a majority of whom are women, there are a range of needs to be addressed, from the need – and right – to learn a loved one's whereabouts, to the identification of remains, decent burial and legal and economic support. The ICRC was involved in a number of programmes in this respect in the Balkans, the Middle East, the Southern Caucasus, South and Central America, Nepal and Sri Lanka.

Strategies combining protection and assistance activities were implemented on behalf of civilians affected by conflict and violence. These included programmes for internally displaced people in Colombia, Lebanon, Liberia, Nepal, Sri Lanka, northern Uganda, and elsewhere. In other contexts, such as Darfur (Sudan), coordination with other agencies resulted in the ICRC giving priority to addressing the needs of resident populations in remote rural areas.

The ICRC further enhanced its capacity to respond more effectively to the specific needs of women and girls. Programmes in the DRC, combining medical treatment, community-based counselling and prevention, remained the most comprehensive. Analytical and response capacities were boosted in many countries, including Liberia, Nepal, Pakistan, Sudan and Yemen.

Its acceptance by all the protagonists, proximity to the victims of armed conflict and the security of its staff remained central to the ICRC's ability to operate. From a security standpoint, 2006 was again a difficult year, with the loss of three colleagues, one in Darfur, one in Senegal and one in Haiti. There were also four instances of kidnapping: in Ethiopia, Haiti and the occupied and autonomous Palestinian territories. The ICRC remained without news of two of its staff members, one who went missing in South Africa in 2001 and another who was abducted from his home in Chechnya in 2003. In general, the ICRC continued to operate in highly complex and volatile environments, such as Iraq, where a specific security-management approach enabled it to carry out a number of important activities, notably visits to detainees and action in response to acute emergencies.

The risks of rejection by some actors who challenge the legitimacy of humanitarian action or who may attempt to exploit it for non-humanitarian purposes are ever present. In the light of these tendencies, the ICRC endeavoured to demonstrate the specific advantages of its neutral, independent and impartial approach through its operational decisions and field strategies.

At the same time, the ICRC attached great importance to maintaining bilateral and confidential dialogue with influential State and non-State actors. It also pursued efforts to promote and demonstrate the relevance of IHL in contemporary forms of armed conflict. More critically, it sought to ensure respect for IHL by the parties engaged in armed conflict.

During the year, the ICRC’s partnerships with National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies proved crucial in several countries, including Afghanistan, Colombia, the DRC, Iraq, Lebanon, Somalia and Yemen. In these and other contexts, the National Societies often played a pivotal role in responding rapidly to needs or reaching people in remote regions.

Coordination with other humanitarian agencies remained essential. In this respect, the ICRC combined an assertive affirmation of its own identity and the distinct benefits of its specific neutral and independent operational approach with a proactive strategy of coordination in the field based on local realities and needs. Several delegations began interacting with UN-cluster lead agencies and Inter-Agency Standing Committee country teams.

AFRICA

Once again the Horn of Africa represented a particularly acute and complex set of operational challenges. Sudan was the single largest ICRC operation for the third year running. Activities in Darfur unfolded in a significantly worsening security environment resulting from the continuous fragmentation of the armed groups involved. The ICRC, for its part, continued to focus on helping to prevent further population displacements, through a combination of protection and assistance activities.

The ICRC increased its operations in Chad in the course of 2006, responding both to detention and medical emergencies in the capital region in spring and to the growing needs of displaced persons and war wounded in the eastern regions throughout most of the year.

The neighbouring Central African Republic experienced an upsurge of armed violence from early 2006 onwards. The ICRC decided to scale up its operations and field presence. An office was opened in Paoua in April and a second was due to open in Kaga Bandoro at the end of 2006.

Somalia experienced multi-layered contingencies and crises, leading the ICRC to scale up activities, first to develop a successful drought-prevention operation early in 2006, then in response to sudden flooding. These activities were carried out against the backdrop of significant political and conflict-related upheaval that often resulted in high numbers of war wounded and displaced who were assisted by the ICRC and the Somali Red Crescent Society.
As the political transition unfolded in the DRC, the ICRC continued to provide support to numerous families affected by armed clashes and acts of violence, primarily in the eastern provinces of the country.

In Western Africa, ICRC operations in Côte d’Ivoire remained significant throughout the country.

**MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA**

In overall terms, the Middle East experienced the highest concentration of instability of any region in the world last year. Iraq saw a catastrophic deterioration of its internal security situation, particularly in the central Baghdad region. Civilians were confronted with daily multiple risks arising from military operations, suicide bombings, kidnappings, killings and torture, to name but those.

Conducting humanitarian activities in this highly dangerous environment was again a particularly delicate undertaking, requiring careful dialogue, networking and programme design. The ICRC visited thousands of detainees/internees and provided emergency aid to hospitals and vulnerable groups, such as IDPs, in cooperation with local partners, most importantly the Iraqi Red Crescent Society. The unacceptable kidnapping of some 30 National Society volunteers towards the end of 2006 was a stark reminder of the difficulty of operating in this context.

In Israel and the occupied and autonomous territories, the ICRC had to step up its operations following the marked deterioration in social and security conditions, notably in the Gaza Strip. This came in the wake of the decision by several members of the international community to cut financial support to the Palestinian Authority. The ICRC boosted its medical support in particular, including to the Palestine Red Crescent’s emergency medical services.

In July, a large-scale conflict broke out between Israel and Hezbollah in Lebanon. One month of military action resulted in high loss of life, widespread infrastructure destruction and population displacements. The ICRC launched a major operation, first focusing on providing the Lebanese Red Cross with the means to conduct its emergency medical work, then, together with contributions from its partners in the Movement, on delivering emergency assistance to the heavily affected south of Lebanon.

It also cooperated with the Magen David Adom in northern Israel, providing medical care to civilians affected by Hezbollah rocket attacks.

**ASIA AND THE PACIFIC**

The summer of 2006 saw a parallel deterioration, this time in Sri Lanka, with Government and Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) forces engaged in increasingly fierce military activities on several fronts. In a country still dealing with the consequences of the December 2004 tsunami, this escalating conflict placed humanitarian agencies before multiple new demands. The ICRC strengthened its protection and assistance programmes, attempting to reach civilians caught up in the affected regions. Regrettably, humanitarian access became a matter of dispute between the parties, leading to significant constraints.

The ICRC’s operation in Afghanistan also experienced change, notably in terms of medical support in response to increased numbers of war wounded from intense military confrontation in the south and east of the country during 2006. The ICRC’s support to hospitals in Kandahar and Jalalabad played a particularly important role in this regard. Equally significant was the support provided to the Afghanistan Red Crescent’s community-based first-aid activities.

On a more positive note, the situation in Nepal saw marked improvements, with an end of hostilities and a release of prisoners. This led the ICRC to shift its focus within its protection programme from detention visits to the issue of missing persons. The ICRC was also able to scale down in Pakistan-administered Kashmir, in the aftermath of the October 2005 earthquake.

In Myanmar, on the other hand, the ICRC faced increasing difficulties. The divergence with the authorities that had led to a suspension of detention visits could not be resolved and in October the government requested the ICRC to shut down five of its field offices. After substantial efforts to clarify these matters through dialogue proved ineffective, the ICRC issued a public statement in November to explain the difficulties it faced and to call on the authorities to find a way forward.

In general terms, the ICRC deepened its understanding of Asian multilateral and regional organizations as a means of reinforcing its humanitarian diplomacy in this important part of the world.

**EUROPE AND THE AMERICAS**

The ICRC continued to run a substantial operation in Colombia throughout 2006, in particular in response to the needs of newly displaced persons, of whom there were more than had been anticipated.

In the Russian Federation, despite ongoing dialogue and representations often at the highest levels, the ICRC was not able to resolve its differences with the authorities on the matter of visits to detainees and places of detention in connection with the situation in Chechnya. These visits were suspended in the autumn of 2004 as a result of the authorities’ reluctance to respect the ICRC’s standard procedures during visits to detainees. The ICRC deeply regrets the lack of any measurable progress in this regard.

There were a number of developments in 2006 in connection with detention by the United States of America, beginning with the Supreme Court ruling in June and the subsequent adoption of the Military Commissions Act of 2006. The ICRC was satisfied at the American decision henceforth to apply common Article 3 of the 1949 Geneva Conventions to all Department of Defence detention operations. The American administration furthermore acknowledged the existence of a secret CIA detention programme. Fourteen al-Qaeda suspects transferred to Guantanamo Bay Naval Station were visited by the ICRC in October.
ICRC operations in 2006: a few facts and figures

PRESENCE

The ICRC’s 80 delegations and missions were distributed throughout the world as follows:

- Africa 27
- Asia and the Pacific 18
- Europe and the Americas 24
- Middle East and North Africa 11

PERSONNEL

The average number of ICRC staff in 2006 was as follows:

- Headquarters: 783
  - Field: expatriates 1,506
    - Expatriates 1,333
    - National Society staff 173
  - National staff 10,174
    - National staff on temporary mission 33
    - Other National staff 10,141
- Field: total (1) 11,680
- Final total 12,463

FINANCE

ICRC expenditure in 2006

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>CHF</th>
<th>USD</th>
<th>EUR</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Headquarters</td>
<td>151.5 million</td>
<td>120.4 million</td>
<td>96.3 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Field</td>
<td>864.4 million</td>
<td>687.1 million</td>
<td>549.6 million</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The sub-total comes to CHF 1,015.9 million from which field overheads (CHF 51.7 million) must be deducted in order to reach the final total.

Final total: CHF 964.1 million  USD 766.4 million  EUR 613.0 million

10 largest operations in 2006 in terms of expenditure

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Country</th>
<th>CHF</th>
<th>USD</th>
<th>EUR</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Sudan</td>
<td>122.0 million</td>
<td>97.0 million</td>
<td>77.6 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Pakistan</td>
<td>52.5 million</td>
<td>41.8 million</td>
<td>33.4 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Israel, the Occupied and Autonomous Territories</td>
<td>49.5 million</td>
<td>39.4 million</td>
<td>31.5 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Somalia</td>
<td>49.1 million</td>
<td>39.0 million</td>
<td>31.2 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Lebanon</td>
<td>48.1 million</td>
<td>38.3 million</td>
<td>30.6 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Iraq</td>
<td>42.3 million</td>
<td>33.6 million</td>
<td>26.9 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Afghanistan</td>
<td>40.8 million</td>
<td>32.4 million</td>
<td>25.9 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Congo, Democratic Republic of the</td>
<td>32.5 million</td>
<td>25.9 million</td>
<td>20.7 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Moscow (regional)</td>
<td>30.1 million</td>
<td>24.0 million</td>
<td>19.2 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Sri Lanka</td>
<td>26.1 million</td>
<td>20.7 million</td>
<td>16.6 million</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Exchange rates: USD 1.00 = CHF 1.2580; EUR 1.00 = CHF 1.5728

(1) This figure does not include an average of 1,745 daily workers hired by the ICRC in the field.
VISITS TO DETAINERS

ICRC delegates visited 478,299 detainees, 41,918 of whom were monitored individually (1,158 females, 1,682 minors), held in 2,577 places of detention in 71 countries. Of this number, 25,369 detainees (632 females, 1,417 minors) were registered and visited for the first time in 2006.

With support provided by the ICRC, 18,715 detainees benefited from family visits.

A total of 24,421 detention attestations were issued.

RESTORING FAMILY LINKS

The ICRC collected 331,804 and distributed 302,157 Red Cross messages, thus enabling members of families separated as a result of conflict, disturbances or tensions to exchange news.

The ICRC registered 1,555 unaccompanied/separated children (including 428 demobilized children) during 2006. Once their families had been located and with the agreement of the child and relatives concerned, it organized and supported the reunification of 1,081 children with their families. At the end of the year, the cases of 3,774 unaccompanied/separated minors (including 337 demobilized children) were still being handled, and involved tracing their relatives, maintaining contacts between the children and their families, organizing family reunification and/or identifying another long-term solution for the children concerned.

The ICRC established the whereabouts of 11,569 people for whom tracing requests had been filed by their families. The ICRC website www.familylinks.icrc.org allowed the publication of 124,509 names of people providing news to relatives and friends or being sought by their relatives. At the end of the year, the ICRC was still taking action to locate 69,049 missing persons (12,897 women and 7,312 minors ) for their families.

The ICRC helped 1,120 people (1,081 minors) to rejoin their families. It organized the transfer or repatriation of 3,501 people and 282 human remains. It issued travel documents that enabled 5,862 people to return to their home countries or to settle in a host country.

It relayed 64,446 various official documents between family members across borders and frontlines.

More than 1 million people contacted ICRC offices worldwide for services or advice regarding issues related to protection and family links.

ASSISTANCE

In 2006, 53 of the ICRC’s 80 delegations and missions ran assistance programmes. The bulk of the work was carried out in Afghanistan, the Caucasus, Colombia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Iraq, Israel and the occupied and autonomous Palestinian territories, Lebanon, Liberia, Pakistan-administered Kashmir, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Sudan (the southern part of the country and Darfur) and Uganda.

ASSISTANCE SUPPLIES

In 2006, the ICRC purchased or received as contributions in kind the following assistance supplies:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Quantity (tonnes)</th>
<th>Value (CHF)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Food items</td>
<td>77,550</td>
<td>63 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seed</td>
<td>5,605</td>
<td>6 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Essential household items</td>
<td>16,745</td>
<td>55 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Including:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1,100,000 blankets</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6,900 tents</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>380,000 tarpaulins</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>171,500 kitchen sets</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>449,000 hygiene kits</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>613 tonnes of clothing</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medical and physical rehabilitation items</td>
<td></td>
<td>20 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water and habitat items</td>
<td></td>
<td>16 million</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

TOTAL: CHF 160 million
USD 127 million
EUR 102 million

Exchange rates: USD 1.00 = CHF 1.2580; EUR 1.00 = CHF 1.5728
ECONOMIC SECURITY

During the year, ICRC activities to ensure economic security directly benefited households and communities in 27 countries worldwide. More than 2,650,000 internally displaced people, returnees, residents (in general people living in rural areas and/or areas difficult to reach owing to insecurity and/or lack of infrastructure) and people deprived of their freedom received aid in the form of food, 4,040,000 in the form of essential household and hygiene items and 3,460,000 through sustainable food-production programmes or micro-economic initiatives. These included various response mechanisms ranging from the rehabilitation of traditional irrigation systems to small-scale, community-based cash-for-work and livestock-management/support projects.

WATER AND HABITAT

In 2006, the ICRC’s Water and Habitat Unit was involved in water, sanitation and construction work in 40 countries. These projects catered for the needs of more than 15.9 million people worldwide (internally displaced people, returnees, residents – in general people living in rural areas and/or areas difficult to reach owing to insecurity and/or lack of infrastructure – and people deprived of their freedom). They were implemented by a team of 110 expatriate engineers and 770 local engineers and technicians.

HEALTH CARE SERVICES

During the year, the ICRC regularly supported 193 hospitals and 303 other health care facilities around the world. An estimated 2,366,000 people (30.4% women and 50.6% children) benefited from ICRC-supported health-care facilities. Community health programmes were implemented in 19 countries, in many cases with National Society participation.

More than 9,900 weapon-wounded and 67,100 non-weapon-wounded patients were admitted to ICRC-supported hospitals in 17 countries where more than 65,200 surgical interventions were performed. The ICRC regularly supported 28 first-aid posts located near combat zones, which provided emergency treatment, mainly for weapon-wounded patients.

CARE FOR THE DISABLED

The ICRC’s Physical Rehabilitation Unit provided support to 77 centres in 24 countries, enabling 141,961 patients (22,839 women and 30,343 children) to receive services. A total of 10,064 new patients were rehabilitated with prostheses and 18,384 with orthoses. In addition, 3,031 wheelchairs and 38,224 crutches and sticks were distributed, most of them locally manufactured. Training of local staff was a priority to improve sustainable services for patients.

ICRC COOPERATION WITH NATIONAL SOCIETIES

The aim of the ICRC’s cooperation with National Societies is to strengthen working relationships and dialogue with Movement partners for the greater benefit of people affected by conflict and internal strife.

In the vast majority of the countries where the ICRC operates, it does so in partnership with National Societies. Overall, it is estimated that more than 30% of the ICRC’s operational activities are carried out in cooperation with the National Society of the country concerned.

In 9 of the countries where the ICRC is running its largest operations, 6 different National Societies working internationally were involved in the implementation of 16 ICRC projects. The ICRC also provided a coordination framework (through a coordinated activities agreement or a bilateral project agreement) for 14 National Societies working internationally on 38 projects in 7 countries.

The ICRC also spent CHF 81.5 million to assist National Societies in their own countries in building and strengthening their capacity to carry out activities in the following areas:

- 139 National Societies in their work to promote and spread knowledge of IHL and the Fundamental Principles;
- 122 National Societies in their work to restore family links;
- 115 National Societies in their preparedness for health and relief assistance during conflict;
- 20 National Societies in carrying out community awareness programmes on mines and explosive remnants of war.

RELATIONS WITH ARMS CARRIERS

Throughout the year, ICRC delegates met and negotiated or concluded agreements with the various weapon bearers present in conflict zones, from members of the military and the police to paramilitary units, rebel movements, and mercenaries.

- 21 specialized ICRC delegates conducted or took part in more than 300 courses, workshops, round-tables and exercises involving some 18,000 military, security and police personnel in more than 100 countries. A total of 71 military officers from 23 countries received ICRC scholarships to attend 9 military courses on IHL in San Remo.
- Delegates promoted compliance with applicable legal norms among private military and security companies contracted by States or other entities.
- A survey of existing means of identifying and handling human remains and restoring family links was conducted in 39 countries. Subsequently, the ICRC produced an information kit to help armed forces prevent and/or resolve the problem of missing persons, from among their personnel and other groups.
- A film based on interviews with former non-State fighters from four different countries about their knowledge of and compliance with IHL was in production and will be ready in 2007 for use as a dissemination tool in discussions with armed groups.
- The ICRC also published Understanding arms carriers, a booklet for new delegates.
RELATIONS WITH ACADEMIC CIRCLES

In practically every country covered by the ICRC, university lecturers in law, international relations and journalism incorporated IHL into their teaching. At national level, the ICRC supported universities by distributing teaching materials, co-organizing IHL events and competitions for students, and sponsoring the participation of lecturers and professors in important regional and international IHL seminars.

In 2006, the ICRC organized or co-organized:

▶ 14 regional and international IHL training seminars for academics (8 in Europe and the Americas; 4 in Asia; 2 in Africa), involving over 200 professors, lecturers and graduate students;
▶ 7 regional IHL competitions for students (3 in Europe; 3 in Asia; 1 in Africa), involving some 300 students and lecturers.

PUBLIC COMMUNICATION

In 2006, the Media Relations Unit in Geneva issued 148 press releases, 78 news reports, 139 information bulletins and 97 briefing and information notes, and organized 16 press conferences. It produced and issued 11 video news items to broadcasters worldwide and produced 6 news stories for use with various target groups (the From the field series).

According to the Factiva database, which compiles print-media sources from 118 countries in 22 languages, the ICRC was mentioned more than 12,000 times in 2006.

SUPPORTING IHL EDUCATION IN SCHOOLS

The Exploring Humanitarian Law teaching module, launched in 2001, is currently being implemented in 69 contexts around the world. It was piloted in classrooms in 50 countries during the year.

MINE-ACTION SUPPORT

Throughout the year, the mine-action sector provided operational support to delegations, National Societies and political authorities in over 20 countries. The sector also worked with the United Nations and NGOs to further develop and strengthen international mine-action standards and coordination.

INFORMATION, DOCUMENTATION AND LANGUAGE SERVICES

Through its library and research service, the ICRC responded to some 2,400 requests for information from National Societies, NGOs, academics, government departments and the media.

The ICRC produced some 40 print and audiovisual products and distributed more than 7,000 films and 460,000 publications worldwide. Approximately 107 million page views were registered on the ICRC website.

The ICRC headquarters received groups totalling over 9,000 visitors. Of these, some 35% were university students, 10% were from the diplomatic milieux, 5% were from international organizations and NGOs, and 5% were military.

Some 7 million words were translated, edited and proofread by translators and editors working for or contracted by the ICRC through its language service.

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ICRC delegation

ICRC regional delegation

ICRC mission

AFRICA

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

REGIONAL DELEGATIONS
Abidjan
Abuja
Dakar
Harare
Nairobi
Pretoria
Yaoundé

EXPENDITURE (IN KCHF)
Protection
76,799
Assistance
249,304
Prevention
36,464
Cooperation with National Societies
30,992
General
1

393,560 of which: Overheads 23,432

Implementation rate
96%
AFRICA

A number of countries in Africa continued to be beset by conflict. In the Darfur region of Sudan, the three-year conflict defied all efforts to find a settlement: military operations continued, armed groups splintered and banditry and ethnic clashes escalated. Protracted fighting in Somalia culminated in the seizure of Mogadishu and much of central and southern Somalia by the Supreme Islamic Courts Council before it was ousted by the transitional federal government, aided by the Ethiopian military. Unrest in Chad escalated as of April into a non-international armed conflict, while the Central African Republic (CAR) suffered a resurgence of armed violence in the north. Security improved in northern Uganda following the signing of a ceasefire agreement between the Lord’s Resistance Army and the Ugandan government, but uncertainty persisted. Elsewhere, there was an upsurge in fighting in the Casamance region of Senegal, and a genuine threat surfaced of another armed Tuareg uprising in northern Mali.

Simmering tensions in various countries ran a real risk of degenerating into conflict. Tension between Eritrea and Ethiopia over the border issue remained high. Localized tensions persisted in Nigeria’s Delta region, while intercommunal violence erupted periodically in the north of the country. Guinea and Zimbabwe were stricken by economic and political crises. Guineans responded by staging increasingly violent mass protests and general strikes demanding price reductions and improved infrastructure and public services. No progress was made in resolving the stalemate in Congo.

The situation continued to stabilize in Angola, Liberia and Sierra Leone. Diplomacy and/or the deployment of African Union and UN peacekeepers helped quell fighting in parts of Burundi, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Côte d’Ivoire, Liberia and Southern Sudan. With international support, the DRC held general elections following which Joseph Kabila was sworn in as president in December.

Invariably, civilians bore the brunt of conflict. Millions were displaced from their homes, cut off from their families and from social services, killed, detained, exposed to danger, extortion and harassment or otherwise affected by armed conflict or violence. The plight of nearly 4 million people directly affected by the conflict in Darfur, including close to 2 million people displaced from and within Darfur, was a notable example.

Against the backdrop of conflict, a catalogue of chronic problems continued to beset the continent, including among other things: corruption, including at the highest levels of government; rampant criminal activity; all manner of trafficking; rundown infrastructure; unemployment; rural exodus; harsh climatic conditions; wastage of public resources; economic, social and political instability; and the HIV/AIDS pandemic.

The ICRC continued to carry out wide-ranging activities aimed at protecting and assisting people directly affected by conflict or situations of armed violence in Africa.

Security was a crucial factor in determining whether and how ICRC programmes were implemented. At times, poor security restricted access to people affected by armed conflict or violence. The ICRC often operated in regions to which few other aid agencies had access. Like other organizations, the ICRC experienced security incidents and had to suspend some activities. This was true of Darfur, where such incidents included the killing of a driver working for the organization, and Casamance, where an ICRC delegate was killed and her three colleagues injured when their vehicle hit a landmine. Other contexts where access to conflict-affected populations was often curtailed included Somalia, eastern Chad, along the border with Sudan, and the conflict-prone north-western part of the CAR. In response, the ICRC stepped up its dialogue with the authorities, armed forces and other bearers of weapons, insisting on full compliance with IHL and explaining the organization’s strict principles of neutrality, independence and impartiality. To minimize the risks to Movement staff in carrying out their humanitarian work, security procedures and regulations were reviewed regularly and strictly observed.

Assistance programmes remained at the forefront of ICRC action. The organization stayed flexible, ready to adapt its activities to the needs of vulnerable populations as they arose. For instance in Somalia emergency aid became a priority, and as a result fewer projects to boost crop production and improve water facilities were implemented than planned. Operational policies on assistance took into account the realities on the ground, that is, the security situation and the level of infrastructure and development in each context.
For the third consecutive year, Sudan was the ICRC’s largest operation worldwide, with assistance programmes in Darfur concentrating on ensuring that residents in remote and rural areas affected by the hostilities had adequate food, water and shelter. The organization maintained a mobile surgical team, which treated wounded civilians and fighters in remote areas, and supported rural health care and services for amputees. One positive outcome of ICRC action was that food aid and agricultural support provided in rural Darfur since May 2004 helped improve beneficiaries’ economic situation to the extent that fewer people than anticipated needed full food rations in 2006. In June, the ICRC closed its hospital and prosthetic/orthotic centre in Lokichokio in Kenya. The hospital had provided invaluable medical and surgical services to patients evacuated from Southern Sudan and in northern Kenya for 19 years. With the return to peace in Southern Sudan, the hospital had accomplished its mission and was handed over to the Kenyan health authorities.

Opening a new office in April in Paoua in the CAR enabled the ICRC to redouble its efforts to protect and assist people affected by the conflict in the north-west of the country, a region where few aid agencies worked. In Chad, the ICRC complemented international aid efforts, which were concentrated on refugee camps, by providing IDPs and their host communities nearer the Sudanese border with basic assistance. In northern Uganda, the Casamance region of Senegal, eastern DRC and elsewhere, the ICRC sustained a range of activities to protect and assist the most vulnerable people.

The ICRC remained the key provider of emergency aid in central and southern Somalia, mounting large-scale relief operations for hundreds of thousands of victims of the conflict, drought and floods. In addition, several thousand weapon-wounded were treated at ICRC-supported hospitals and first-aid and health posts.

In Côte d’Ivoire, essential services such as those provided by the national water board and hospitals in the north received ICRC support to keep them functioning. Support was also maintained to agricultural projects to alleviate hardship among civilians in the country’s north-eastern and central regions, while food and material assistance was provided to IDPs caught up in inter-communal clashes in the west.

The ICRC extended its multidisciplinary programme of medical and psychological support for people who had suffered sexual violence in the DRC from South to North Kivu. To reduce the incidence of rape and the stigma and discrimination which victims often faced, it made confidential representations to the authorities and ran community awareness campaigns.

The ICRC prepared to phase out assistance activities in a number of countries undergoing transition from conflict to development, such as Congo, Liberia and Sierra Leone. In the Pool region of Congo, the organization continued to respond to the residual effects of conflict, inter alia, by supporting chronically vulnerable populations. Meanwhile, it impressed upon the authorities the need to assume their rightful role in meeting the population’s needs and, where necessary, lobbied other international actors to take over from where the ICRC left off.
The ICRC continued visiting detainees to monitor their treatment and living conditions and shared findings and recommendations with the authorities. Visits to detainees were intensified in Rwanda, where, with the nationwide gacaca trials under way, the prison population had increased to over 87,000 inmates. Also visited were individuals held by armed groups in Darfur. Lack of access to detainees, particularly those held for reasons of State security in Ethiopia, Gambia, Somalia, Sudan and elsewhere, remained a concern for the ICRC. Dialogue was sustained with the relevant authorities to obtain or restore full access to all detainees falling within the organization’s mandate.

Following visits to places of detention, the ICRC mobilized the authorities and other stakeholders to improve detention conditions for the general prison population in various countries. In the CAR, Chad, Côte d’Ivoire, Guinea and the DRC, it stepped in to provide food rations when nutritional levels fell particularly low and to provide medical care and improve hygiene conditions where appropriate. In Côte d’Ivoire, where the organization carried out life-saving therapeutic feeding programmes in civilian prisons, mortality rates dropped by up to two-thirds. Furthermore, the government responded to the ICRC’s calls to improve health care for inmates by deploying nurses to 21 civilian prisons.

The ICRC suspended its programme of structural support to prisons in Madagascar in May owing to the lack of improvement in detention conditions. It concentrated instead on enlisting the support of some members of the international community who might be in a position to convince the Malagasy government to ensure that detention conditions complied with internationally recognized standards. In countries like Sierra Leone, the ICRC maintained technical support to penal reforms.

Tracing activities remained a vital lifeline for hundreds of thousands of conflict-affected civilians, including refugees and IDPs, to locate their relatives and communicate with them. Children on their own and vulnerable people were reunited with their families, where possible and appropriate. With the number of children needing tracing services dwindling in West Africa, particularly in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone, the ICRC focused on resolving residual tracing cases as it planned to wrap up its tracing programmes in the region. In the Kissidougou area of Guinea, where there was a sharp drop in the number of children needing tracing services, the ICRC closed its sub-delegation. Increasingly, the ICRC advocated the search for durable solutions, such as adoption or their integration into host communities, for children whose families could not be located despite years of tracing.

As much as possible, the ICRC sought to alleviate the anguish suffered by families whose loved ones remained unaccounted for. In Côte d’Ivoire, the organization offered the Forces Nouvelles armed group material and technical support in the handling and identification of human remains and in marking burial sites so that families could be duly informed of the fate of their loved ones.

Communication remained an integral part of the ICRC’s operational strategy. It undertook activities to raise awareness of IHL and the Movement among a wide range of audiences and to broaden support for the ICRC’s action. Audiences included national, regional and international authorities, weapon bearers, media, traditional and religious leaders, think-tanks, education establishments, NGOs and the general public. The ICRC encouraged the national authorities in their efforts to ratify IHL treaties and to translate them into national legislation, and supported armed and security forces in integrating IHL and/or international human rights law into their training, doctrine and operations. Sudan’s ratification of the 1977 Additional Protocols was a significant step forward in its commitment to improve the protection of conflict victims in the country.

As ever, National Societies played a vital role in responding to the needs of vulnerable populations. In Chad, Côte d’Ivoire, Guinea, Somalia, Sudan and elsewhere, they were instrumental in carrying out medical activities and first aid, the distribution of relief goods and the collection and delivery of RCMs. They helped implement agricultural, sanitation and water programmes for conflict-affected populations and nutritional programmes in prisons. They supported the promotion of IHL and the Fundamental Principles. In certain countries, such as Somalia, the National Society remained the ICRC’s main partner, using its local knowledge to help the organization work safely and effectively in a difficult environment.

At the same time, National Societies received substantial ICRC support (funds, training, materials, equipment and logistics back-up and technical advice), often in coordination with the International Federation, to strengthen their operational capacities to help vulnerable populations. In Côte d’Ivoire, Somalia and other countries where it was lead agency for the Movement, the ICRC oversaw the coordination of the activities of all Movement partners. Elsewhere, it ensured that its activities were in harmony with those of the rest of the Movement.
The ICRC has been present in Angola since the start of the conflict in 1975 that devastated the country’s infrastructure and economy and left the population dependent on aid. Relative normality has returned since the 2002 Luena peace agreement, although mines remain a major problem. The ICRC continues to support three State-run limb-fitting centres, urging the authorities to increase their involvement. It cooperates with the Angola Red Cross in raising awareness of landmine risks. The two organizations operate a tracing network to enable family members separated by the conflict to re-establish contact. The delegation also supports the Sao Tome and Principe Red Cross.

The government announced in April that it had begun negotiations with the Front for the Liberation of the Cabinda Enclave (FLEC). On 1 August, a memorandum of understanding for peace and reconciliation was signed between António Bento Bembe, one of the enclave’s leaders, and the government. It foresaw a special administrative status for the province, the demobilization of FLEC forces, their integration into the national army and police force and the allocation of certain government posts to opposition leaders who had laid down their arms. It was unclear, however, whether the agreement would be accepted by all factions within the enclave.

Angola’s international and regional influence grew. It joined the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries and agreed that from 2007 Luanda would host the Gulf of Guinea Commission bringing together the region’s oil-producing countries. The city was also the chosen location of the newly established African Diamond Producers Association, itself an Angolan initiative, comprising 19 countries from across the continent. Angola was elected to preside over the UN Peacebuilding Commission during its inaugural year.

The majority of the population was still living in chronic poverty. The presence of mines and other explosive remnants of war (ERW) continued to cause injury and death, restrict movement and limit the use of potentially productive assets such as agricultural land. A cholera epidemic broke out at the start of the year, affecting more than 67,000 people in 16 out of 18 provinces. By December, there had been more than 2,700 deaths, according to official figures.
ICRC ACTION

The ICRC/Angola Red Cross tracing service worked to reunite separated family members and continued to offer the RCM network, mainly to people in rural areas who had no other means of communicating with family in Angola or abroad.

In Cabinda province, the ICRC continued to visit detainees and maintained contact with the military authorities and opposition leaders to remind them of their obligations under IHL.

In its work with the National Society and the national mine action authority, the ICRC sought to strengthen the country-wide response to the challenges posed by mines and ERW. Together, the National Society and the ICRC developed strategies to help communities assess the level of contamination in their localities and to identify and solve the specific problems they faced. New tools and materials were created to collect, analyse and share information among actors working with mine-affected communities. The strategies were piloted in six provinces and later adopted by the national mine action authority and shared with other organizations. They were reflected in the “National mine action strategic plan 2006–2011” approved by President Dos Santos in September.

The contribution of international organizations remained crucial to meeting Angola’s enormous physical rehabilitation needs. The ICRC continued to provide on-the-job training and financial support to three Ministry of Health centres treating disabled patients. It also supported the ministry in its efforts to draw up a national physical rehabilitation policy.

The delegation continued to familiarize military and civilian authorities, members of the police force, traditional and religious leaders, and civil society with the ICRC’s mandate and activities and the basic rules of IHL.

The Angola Red Cross pursued its internal reform process, holding its 3rd general assembly in October.

CIVILIANS

The substantial army presence in Cabinda led to sporadic tension and incidents involving the civilian population. Temporary restrictions were imposed on civilian movements in the Mayombe area after attacks by armed groups during the first half of the year. For a period after the signing of the agreement between the Angolan government and António Bento Bembe in August 2006, there was an increase in attacks by armed groups against the military. These resulted in occasional acts of violence against civilians during military operations. The ICRC collected allegations of such incidents and raised them with those concerned with a view to ending abuses of the civilian population. It also familiarized Church and traditional leaders and civil society representatives with its mandate.

During the first half of the year, the ICRC continued to monitor the situation of some 400 former Congolese and Rwandan fighters (and some 350 of their dependants) still awaiting repatriation or regularization of their status by the authorities. In July 2006, the former Congolese fighters were repatriated to the Democratic Republic of the Congo with family members. The ICRC followed the process closely, insisting that repatriation should only be carried out with the agreement of the person concerned and that families should not be separated. The status of the former Rwandan fighters registered by the ICRC had not yet been clarified.

## MAIN FIGURES AND INDICATORS

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<td>Number of visits carried out</td>
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<td>Prostheses delivered</td>
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<td>Orthoses delivered</td>
<td>160</td>
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</table>

During the first half of the year, the ICRC continued to monitor the situation of some 400 former Congolese and Rwandan fighters (and some 350 of their dependants) still awaiting repatriation or regularization of their status by the authorities. In July 2006, the former Congolese fighters were repatriated to the Democratic Republic of the Congo with family members. The ICRC followed the process closely, insisting that repatriation should only be carried out with the agreement of the person concerned and that families should not be separated. The status of the former Rwandan fighters registered by the ICRC had not yet been clarified.
Mines and explosive remnants of war
People at particular risk from mines/ERW tended to be engaged in specific activities such as agriculture, firewood collection and charcoal production. Communities, including recent returnees, were informed through national and provincial radio bulletins about the risk reduction strategies they could use and the location of dangerous areas. Angola Red Cross volunteers worked with mine-affected communities to develop risk reduction plans tailored to their own specific situations. Typically, this involved organizing community meetings, helping villagers to map dangerous areas, identifying alternative areas and marking paths. The approach was piloted in six provinces, in conjunction with the police.

One particular programme that used this solutions-based methodology addressed accidents involving children playing in dangerous areas or looking for discarded tins with which to make toys. The risk to children in the provinces of Benguela, Bié, Kuanza Sul and Moxico was reduced through the creation of safe play areas in 16 communities. In each case, the local situation was assessed, residents and authorities mobilized and the identified areas cleared and levelled by the communities themselves. Play equipment for children (climbing frames, see-saws, slides, swings and football goal posts) was provided.

The national mine action authority, supported by the ICRC, organized roundtables to introduce the solutions-based mine-risk education strategies developed and field-tested by the ICRC and the Angola Red Cross to others involved in mine action.

Restoring family links
Despite improved communications, the rural population continued to rely on the RCM network to restore contact with their families. The proportion of RCMs aiming to establish a first contact increased during the year, showing the ongoing need for this service.

Unaccompanied children continued to be reunited with their families as appropriate, through a tracing network run jointly by the Angola Red Cross and the ICRC. Children reunited with their families received a kit containing basic items to ease their reintegration. Similar supplies were given to centres and orphanages caring for unaccompanied children. A countrywide photo tracing programme was launched in July using posters and a book with pictures of the children separated from their families. The Red Cross Gazette listing the names of 18,393 people searching for or being sought by relatives, including many unaccompanied children, was widely consulted across Angola’s 18 provinces.

The ICRC also helped 26 vulnerable people, mainly elderly people and widows with children, to rejoin relatives or friends.

- 14,805 RCMs collected from and 13,436 RCMs distributed to civilians, including 115 from and 65 to unaccompanied/separated children
- new tracing requests registered for 3,153 people (885 females, 164 minors at the time of disappearance); 368 people located; 22,742 (6,329 females, 1,239 minors at the time of disappearance) still being sought
- 101 unaccompanied/separated children registered; 77 reunited with their families; 287 cases of such children still being handled
- 5 people issued with an ICRC travel document

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

The ICRC made eight visits to detainees held in municipal and provincial prisons under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of the Interior in Cabinda. Delegates discussed recommendations for improving conditions of detention with the authorities. The ICRC maintained contact with military authorities to check if any civilians were being temporarily detained in their facilities.

- 13 detainees visited, 12 of them monitored individually, including 9 newly registered, during 8 visits to 2 places of detention
- 32 RCMs collected from and 2 RCMs distributed to detainees
WOUNDED AND SICK

According to the latest official figures, there were an estimated 105,000 physically disabled people in Angola, including some 70,000 mine/ERW victims. Prosthetic/orthotic services were provided by 11 State physical rehabilitation centres. Six of them relied on financial and/or technical support from international partners to keep them going, of which three, in Luanda, Huambo and Kuito, continued to receive ICRC support.

The national rehabilitation programme organized several working groups, with the ICRC’s participation, to set policy on the long-term functioning of the physical rehabilitation centres. Areas covered included training activities, logistics and technical procedures, such as the ICRC-developed polypropylene technology used to manufacture prostheses and orthoses. In parallel, the ICRC formulated more specific procedures for the three centres it supported.

Amputees were often prevented from reaching the three centres by mined roads and the lack of public transport. As a result, the centres did not run at full capacity. The ICRC broached this issue with the authorities and it was included in the national plan for demining and humanitarian assistance. Destitute patients, mainly from Huambo and Kuito, continued to have their transport costs reimbursed by the ICRC.

Thirty-nine orthopaedic technicians from Angola’s physical rehabilitation centres started a distance-learning course in February. The three-year course, conducted in cooperation with the Don Bosco University in El Salvador, would lead to an internationally recognized diploma. Seven technicians were being assisted by the ICRC during their studies.

Wheelchair users and a representative of the UK-registered NGO Motivation participated in the evaluation of a new wheelchair design, organized by the ICRC at the Luanda centre in May.

- 1,066 prostheses (177 for women, 50 for children; 827 for mine victims), 160 orthoses (45 for women, 90 for children; 10 for mine victims), 3,852 crutches and 41 wheelchairs delivered

AUTHORITIES

With the political establishment focused on the elections and various economic agreements, the ratification of IHL treaties received little attention. Nonetheless, the government continued to discuss the ratification of six IHL treaties aimed at protecting the population in the event of armed conflict. The ICRC, which offered its services to help speed up the process, placed particular emphasis on the adoption of national legislation implementing the Ottawa Convention.

ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

To encourage the integration of IHL into military training, the ICRC offered to help draw up a comprehensive IHL instruction programme and hold train-the-trainer courses in the event that the authorities went ahead with its proposal. In the meantime, it kept up dissemination sessions for members of the armed and police forces on IHL and/or human rights standards and humanitarian principles.

- 3,079 military personnel attended 21 sessions on IHL and ICRC activities
- 509 police officers attended 17 sessions on human rights and humanitarian principles

CIVIL SOCIETY

Contacts were established or developed with various media organizations, in order to gain support for the ICRC’s activities. National and regional media received a regular newsletter covering the ICRC’s activities and related topics. The international media also reported on ICRC activities in Angola.

Community, political and religious leaders in a number of provinces, as well as traditional authorities, teachers and NGO representatives, were briefed on the ICRC’s activities.

- 15,869 people attended 150 information sessions on the ICRC and its operations in Angola

RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT

The National Society’s 3rd general assembly saw the election of a new president. New organs of governance were formally established, and their members elected or confirmed in their positions. The organization’s statutes, revised with the help of the ICRC and the International Federation, were approved, as well as a national development plan for 2006–09. A draft Red Cross bill to be submitted to parliament for adoption was presented to participants, and the results of an external financial and administrative audit of the National Society were discussed.

Efforts to improve the efficiency of the tracing network continued. Local Red Cross coordinators and volunteers participated in quarterly training courses, and an assistant to the Angola Red Cross national tracing coordinator and two volunteers had their salaries paid and were given further training.

The Angola Red Cross, with help from the ICRC, developed a methodology to support mine- and ERW-affected communities in solving the specific problems they faced, based on the collection of detailed local information (see Civilians). Angola Red Cross volunteers were trained in this methodology. The National Society also spoke on behalf of such communities at provincial mine action coordination meetings, presenting the problems faced and the solutions the communities themselves had proposed. The national mine action authority endorsed the methodology, and a National Society-supported community project to mark out dangerous areas was adopted by other organizations. The National Society provided these organizations with guidelines and details of lessons learned from its own experience. Mine-risk education materials, developed by the National Society with ICRC support, were also distributed.
In 2006, the ICRC:
- visited 9,392 detainees, including 1,560 security detainees registered and monitored individually, during 223 visits to 76 places of detention;
- helped separated family members to restore and maintain contact through the RCM service, and reunited 5 unaccompanied children with their families;
- ensured access to safe water for 147,600 people in both rural and urban areas, with a further 68,000 people set to benefit from ongoing projects;
- enhanced the support and level of care available to victims of sexual violence and raised awareness of their plight;
- organized some 100 IHL sessions for over 6,300 members of the new armed and police forces.

For 37 years until 1999, the ICRC monitored the situation in Burundi and took action on an ad hoc basis. Since then, it has been continuously present in the country, focusing on helping people to overcome the worst consequences of conflict. It works with the prison authorities to ensure that detainees are treated according to internationally recognized standards. It improves health care for victims of sexual violence, benefiting mother and child health care, and rehabilitates water and sanitation systems for vulnerable groups. It reunites children separated from their parents with their families and restores family links. It supports training in IHL for the armed and security forces.

In September 2006, the government signed a ceasefire with the National Liberation Forces (FNL), following long-running negotiations in the United Republic of Tanzania. However, the terms of the agreement were vague, and controversy over the modalities of its implementation delayed the process whereby FNL members would be demobilized or integrated into the national security forces. Prior to the signing of the agreement, the government had stepped up military pressure on the armed opposition movement, and there were sporadic outbreaks of violence in Bubanza, Bujumbura rural and Cibitoke provinces.

The population in conflict-affected areas had been subjected to numerous alleged IHL violations, such as pillaging, arbitrary arrests and summary executions, but these decreased drastically following the ceasefire.

International concern mounted over allegations of summary executions of FNL members in the province of Muyinga. The arrest of a number of leading figures suspected of involvement in a coup attempt, including the former president Domitien Ndayizeye and former vice-president Alphonse-Marie Kadege, also caused concern. Relations between the government, the political opposition and the local media became increasingly tense.

Following the complete withdrawal of UN peacekeeping forces at the end of 2006, the UN was set to be represented by an integrated office under a special representative of the secretary-general. A contingent of South African forces seconded to the African Union also remained to monitor the implementation of the ceasefire between the government and the FNL.

Whilst the integration of the newly formed security forces went smoothly, a large number of weapons remained in circulation and crime was rampant.

Calls for justice and reconciliation had yet to be satisfactorily answered. There was concern that the possible return of several hundred thousand refugees would increase tension and pressure on already scarce land.

**KEY POINTS**

- visited 9,392 detainees, including 1,560 security detainees registered and monitored individually, during 223 visits to 76 places of detention;
- helped separated family members to restore and maintain contact through the RCM service, and reunited 5 unaccompanied children with their families;
- ensured access to safe water for 147,600 people in both rural and urban areas, with a further 68,000 people set to benefit from ongoing projects;
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**CONTEXT**

In September 2006, the government signed a ceasefire with the National Liberation Forces (FNL), following long-running negotiations in the United Republic of Tanzania. However, the terms of the agreement were vague, and controversy over the modalities of its implementation delayed the process whereby FNL members would be demobilized or integrated into the national security forces. Prior to the signing of the agreement, the government had stepped up military pressure on the armed opposition movement, and there were sporadic outbreaks of violence in Bubanza, Bujumbura rural and Cibitoke provinces.

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The approach developed in Bujumbura was initiated in Bururi province, based on a programme for victims of sexual violence assistance at the end of the year. View of the scheduled cessation of ICRC activities to run the projects independently, in ongoing projects and training the beneficiaries to run the projects independently, in view of the scheduled cessation of ICRC assistance at the end of the year.

In Burundi, refugees from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) had access to the RCM service to keep in touch with their relatives back home, and had access to tracing requests still being handled at 31 December 2006. Tracing requests closed positively (persons located) 54. Unaccompanied minors (UAMs) and separated children (SCs), including unaccompanied demobilized child soldiers UAMs/SCs newly registered by the ICRC 13. People reunited with their families by the ICRC 5. UAMs/SCs cases still being handled at 31 December 2006 53.

ICRC ACTION

Owing to a marked increase in the number of arrests, ICRC delegates visited detainees and checked on their treatment and conditions of detention. Cooperation continued with the penitentiary authorities to improve conditions of detention in general. The ICRC strengthened its dialogue with the international community to encourage its members to support the Burundian government in its efforts to ensure that conditions of detention and treatment of women and children met internationally recognized minimum standards.

The ICRC developed its family-links network to enable hundreds of thousands of Burundian refugees, most of whom were in the United Republic of Tanzania and preferred to stay there for the time being, to keep in contact with their relatives. The delegation also worked to reunite unaccompanied children with their families.

Some projects to repair and improve the capacity of urban and rural water supply systems destroyed by conflict were completed, while others were still in progress.

Support to rekindle agricultural activity in two provinces focused on consolidating ongoing projects and training the beneficiaries to run the projects independently, in view of the scheduled cessation of ICRC assistance at the end of the year.

A programme for victims of sexual violence was initiated in Bururi province, based on the approach developed in Bujumbura region near conflict areas. Medical care and psychosocial support services.

Since 2003. The whole programme was stopped at the end of 2006, as the phenomenon was no longer principally linked with weapon bearers but had become a more general social or cultural problem.

The authorities showed an encouraging interest in IHL. The armed and security forces requested IHL familiarization and training sessions, and the Defence Ministry was in the process of incorporating IHL into army training regulations.

Having accompanied the National Society through a restructuring process in 2005, the ICRC focused on strengthening its disaster preparedness and dissemination capacities, to be followed by cooperation on activities to restore family links.

CIVILIANS

Restoring family links

After the RCM service was extended from Burundi to Burundian refugees in the United Republic of Tanzania in October 2005, there was a substantial increase in the volume of messages exchanged.

In Burundi, refugees from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) had access to the RCM service to keep in touch with relatives back home, and had access to tracing requests still being handled at 31 December 2006. Refugees started to return to the DRC during the year.

Where possible, unaccompanied children were reunited with their families, following which the ICRC and the International Rescue Committee worked together to monitor their reintegration into their communities.

- 5,418 RCMs collected (145 from unaccompanied/separated children) and 5,367 RCMs distributed (113 to unaccompanied/separated children)
- new tracing requests registered for 130 people (73 females, 83 minors at the time of disappearance); 54 people located; 108 people (54 females, 51 minors at the time of disappearance) still being sought
- 13 unaccompanied/separated children newly registered, 5 reunited with their families and 53 cases still being processed
- 12 people issued with ICRC travel documents

Providing pregnant women and victims of sexual violence with access to care

Sixty-five traditional birth attendants and community health workers from five health centres received training facilitated by the ICRC in cooperation with the National Programme of Reproductive Health. They were trained in safe childbirth and in identifying victims of sexual violence and referring them to appropriate medical and psychosocial support services.

Thanks to this referral system, women who had suffered sexual violence had access to a care network set up by the ICRC in two communities in Bururi province, a rural region near conflict areas. Medical care and...
psychological and social support were provided by MSF-Belgium and Trauma Healing and Reconciliation Services, while the ICRC contributed by financing a shelter and the full-time services of a Burundian psychologist. In addition, 74 people in positions of influence learned how to familiarize their communities with ways to prevent sexual violence and give support to the victims.

The birth attendants’ activities were monitored on a monthly basis by health delegates. The public learned more about topics such as nutrition, malaria, HIV/AIDS and family planning during health information sessions conducted by the ICRC.

Women and children attending ICRC-supported health centres for consultations were given insecticide-impregnated mosquito nets. This encouraged more women to seek out the centres for vaccinations and other treatment, which had a positive effect on women’s and children’s health in general. In total, 10,000 nets were distributed.

The whole programme was stopped at the end of 2006, as the phenomenon of sexual violence was no longer principally linked with weapon bearers but had become a more general social or cultural problem.

Ensuring clean water for residents and IDPs

Cooperation continued between the ICRC and Regideso, the urban water and electricity board. To enhance their capacities and refresh their skills, Regideso staff attended two technical training sessions on water network management.

The new water system in Rumonge was inaugurated in October, providing a catchment population of 45,000 people with at least 45 litres per person per day. The prison was also supplied by the new system. Engineering work on water projects in Gatumba and Mabanga was well under way. Feasibility studies were completed for a water project in Mutaho, work on which was scheduled to begin at the start of 2007.

People in Bugendana, Buyengero, Kabezi, Marangara, Mitakataka, Mwumba and Rwisabi had access to clean water following the completion of repairs to essential infrastructure damaged in the conflict. People in “Don Bosco”, Mabanga, Mubone, Mwumba and Nyamugari were set to gain improved access to water supplies once repair work, carried out by the ICRC and the Direction Générale de l’Hydraulique et des Energies Rurales, Burundi’s rural water board, had been completed.

1 water system in an urban area and 8 systems in rural areas completed, serving 147,600 people
4 projects to construct water systems in rural areas and 2 urban water projects ongoing, to serve 68,000 people

Economic assistance to residents and IDPs

In line with the decision taken in 2005, the ICRC worked to consolidate seed production and swamp drainage projects initiated in 2004 with a view to ending its assistance by the middle of June. The project beneficiaries received training in agricultural techniques and management. The Buraza swamp drainage project was the only activity requiring ICRC guidance and training until the end of the year to ensure its sustainability.

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

Members of the FNL held in places of temporary detention, central prisons and a centre for former FNL fighters continued to receive visits from ICRC delegates, who monitored their treatment and detention conditions. The Service National de Renseignement granted the ICRC access to its detention facilities as well. The number of arrests remained high, despite the signature of a ceasefire agreement between the government and the FNL in September.

The treatment and conditions of detention of the whole prison population were the subject of continuing confidential dialogue between the ICRC and the authorities. A number of written reports on the topic were submitted to the authorities, including a comprehensive assessment of the current situation observed in 11 prisons.

Particular attention was paid to the situation of incarcerated women and children, who were often being held in the same accommodation as male detainees. Two projects were carried out to set up separate areas for women. The ICRC also encouraged the international community to support the Burundian government’s efforts to provide women and children with conditions of detention in line with internationally recognized minimum standards and to modify prison facilities accordingly. Donors approved financial support for infrastructure rehabilitation work within the framework of a government emergency appeal.

Cooperation continued with the Direction Générale des Affaires Pénitentiaires to improve water and hygiene facilities in prisons. A pest-control spraying campaign was carried out in all prisons, as part of which 7,500 detainees received insecticide-impregnated mosquito nets, straw mattresses, blankets and a monthly supply of soap. In Bujuumbura’s Mpimba prison, repairs were made to the water supply system.

Levels of mortality and morbidity in Burundi’s prisons remained low by local standards. All the prisons had a small clinic staffed with a nurse and stocked with medical supplies to treat most diseases on the spot, thanks in part to ICRC projects. The prison population continued to benefit from the ICRC’s financing of medicines and supplies and the monitoring of the quality of care and epidemiological figures.

The ICRC continued to advocate the introduction of programmes to fight tuberculosis, HIV/AIDS and other diseases in prisons. Associations of seropositive detainees received ICRC support to help them improve their living conditions. War-wounded detainees had their hospital fees paid.

A dialogue was established with the Ministry of Interior and the police authorities to promote better conditions of detention in temporary detention facilities. To this end, confidential written reports were submitted to the local authorities. People held in places of temporary detention received soap and other hygiene items.

9,392 detainees visited, 1,560 of them monitored individually (40 females, 112 minors), including 1,344 newly registered (36 females, 100 minors), during 223 visits to 76 places of temporary detention and Central prisons
239 RCMs collected from and 178 RCMs distributed to detainees
65 people held in relation to the conflict provided with financial assistance to return home upon their release
25,500 inmates benefited from a range of ICRC assistance initiatives
a prison directors’ workshop and a round-table between the penitentiary administration and donors, NGOs and international organizations facilitated by the ICRC
AUTHORITIES

Discussions with relevant national authorities regarding the ratification and implementation of IHL treaties yielded some results:

- The legal team from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs prepared an implementing act for the 1993 Convention on Chemical Weapons which was then submitted for cabinet and parliamentary approval;
- The committee established by the Ministry of Justice to oversee the reform of the Criminal Code took note of some of the ICRC’s suggestions and was set to incorporate articles on international crimes and protection of the emblem into the revised code.

In addition, provincial and communal authorities attending information sessions learned about ICRC operations in Burundi, and 130 members of parliament and 70 members of the executive participated in three workshops on IHL and the implementation of international conventions.

ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

Regulations for the armed forces, which were drafted with ICRC support and provided for IHL to be integrated into all levels of military instruction, were still in the process of being approved by the Ministry of Defence. Soldiers from all ranks participated in ICRC-organized IHL sessions across the country, at the request of the army joint staff.

Members of the gendarmerie and new police recruits from former armed groups participated in several two-day IHL/human rights training sessions organized by the ICRC at the request of the police directorate.

All members of former armed movements were either demobilized, incorporated into the national army or police force or belonged to units in the process of being disbanded. The exception was the FNL, which was still waiting for the next phase of demobilization at the end of the year, after signing a ceasefire agreement in September.

- 600 army officers attended 20 IHL sessions, and more than 4,000 troops attended 60 IHL information sessions
- 30 officers from different military areas trained by ICRC and military instructors to become IHL trainers
- 4 officers sponsored to attend an IHL course in San Remo
- More than 1,500 police officers and non-commissioned officers briefed on IHL/human rights during 20 information sessions

CIVIL SOCIETY

The media continued to learn about the ICRC’s mandate, activities and IHL through briefings, press releases and events. Media representatives participated in an information session on protection, water and habitat and health.

Education authorities were briefed on the Exploring Humanitarian Law programme so that secondary school students could continue to benefit from lessons in humanitarian principles and basic IHL rules. Experts from the Education Ministry were supported in their efforts to draw up a specialized teaching guide and an additional teacher’s manual to accompany the programme. Private schools were also approached, and 30 principals and teachers attended an Exploring Humanitarian Law information day.

To gain a better understanding of IHL, students at higher education institutions countrywide attended conferences, and teams representing six of the country’s seven universities took part in a public competition on IHL. Contacts were made with lecturers at the newly opened Hope Africa University to promote the integration of IHL into law courses in the coming academic year.

- 60 volunteers trained, who then formed 3 emergency response brigades
- 6 Red Cross trainers and 123 volunteers trained during 6 first-aid courses

Establishing family links

The delegation looked into the possibility of setting up an RCM network, with a view to developing National Society tracing activities.

RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT

The Burundi Red Cross completed the restructuring process begun in 2004. Of the four national programme coordinators, two (for disaster preparedness and dissemination) were financed by the ICRC, which also supplied some basic equipment.

Raising awareness of IHL and the Fundamental Principles

All Red Cross committee members at provincial and community level learned about the Movement and its Fundamental Principles through training sessions financed by the International Federation, the German and Spanish Red Cross Societies and the ICRC.

The Burundi Red Cross and the ICRC jointly set up a dissemination programme to familiarize the authorities at provincial and community level with the Movement, its Fundamental Principles and activities and to facilitate the National Society’s role as auxiliary to the public authorities.

- Provincial and communal authorities attended 17 dissemination sessions in 17 provinces
The ICRC has been operating in Chad since 1978. It focuses on protecting and assisting people internally displaced, detained or otherwise affected by armed conflict or other situations of armed violence. It provides emergency aid, supports treatment for the wounded and amputees, visits detainees and restores family links, primarily for Sudanese refugees. The ICRC also pursues long-standing programmes to promote IHL among the authorities, armed forces and civil society and supports the Red Cross of Chad.

In 2006, the ICRC:
- informed the government on 15 April of the ICRC’s qualification of the situation in Chad as a non-international armed conflict and regularly reminded the parties to the conflict of their obligations under IHL and customary law;
- stepped up visits to detention facilities, following up the individual cases of 841 security detainees in 71 places of detention;
- significantly expanded its medical programme, deploying 2 surgical teams that operated on several hundred weapon-wounded, conducting war-surgery and first-aid training, delivering emergency supplies to hospitals and health posts and supporting Chad’s main limb-fitting centre;
- near the Chad-Sudan border, delivered relief goods to over 29,000 displaced people and seeds and tools to some 25,000 IDPs, supported health posts used by 8 villages hosting IDPs and continued upgrading water facilities serving 150,500 people;
- distributed some 4,400 RCMs to Sudanese refugees in camps in eastern Chad, collected over 7,000 RCMs for delivery to their families and followed up the individual cases of 554 child refugees separated from their parents;
- trained 25 members of the national defence forces as IHL instructors, helped produce Chad’s first military IHL-instruction manual and assisted the government in establishing a national IHL committee.

Over 2006, unrest in Chad escalated into a non-international armed conflict and the security situation deteriorated, particularly in the east along the border with the conflict-torn region of Darfur in Sudan. By year-end, there were some 75,000 people internally displaced in eastern Chad.

In the early part of 2006, eastern Chad was the scene of sporadic clashes between government troops and opposition forces claiming a mix of political and ethnic grievances. On 13 April, opposition fighters launched attacks on the capital N’Djamena and the eastern border town of Adré, which were repelled by the army. After a lull, fighting resumed in eastern Chad in late September and intensified from late November, pitting the armed forces against several shifting opposition alliances, mainly in and around the towns of Abéché, Biltine and Guéréda. The clashes left many dead and wounded, mostly among soldiers and opposition fighters, and displaced thousands of people. Government forces regained a measure of control in the region, but the situation remained unstable.

Civilians living along the Chad-Darfur border also came under increasing attack in 2006 during hit-and-run cross-border raids. Villages were burned, livestock looted and tens of thousands of people forced to flee their homes. A combination of the raids, the conflict and the presence of over 200,000 Sudanese refugees in eastern Chad heightened age-old ethnic tensions and triggered increasingly violent intercommunal clashes. As the security situation worsened, people’s movements became restricted and local authorities fled conflict-affected regions, further disrupting trade and services. Humanitarian organizations were subject to lootings and car-jackings, which hampered aid delivery. Given the volatile situation at their border, relations between Chad and Sudan remained strained.

Chadian President Idriss Déby, who was re-elected for a third term on 3 May, called on the international community to help quell the insurgency. A small number of French troops were already in the country. At year-end, the international community was investigating the possibility of deploying a UN peacekeeping force in eastern Chad.
ICRC ACTION

Given the increasingly unstable situation in Chad, the ICRC significantly stepped up and adapted its operations over 2006, focusing on protecting and assisting people directly affected by conflict or other situations of armed violence.

Following the attacks by the armed opposition in April, the ICRC officially informed the government that it qualified the situation in Chad as a non-international armed conflict and cited the IHL provisions that applied. The delegation then reinforced its dialogue with the authorities, regularly reminding them of their obligations under IHL and taking up with the relevant parties allegations of abuses committed against people who were not or no longer taking part in the hostilities. It also explained the ICRC’s mandate and strict principles of independence and neutrality in order to gain acceptance and thus ensure that its workers had safe access to people in need.

As the security situation deteriorated, the ICRC was one of the few organizations left operating in the volatile Chad-Sudan border region. To complement the substantial international aid efforts that were concentrated on refugee camps and IDPs who had fled to the interior, the ICRC focused on providing IDPs and their host communities nearer the border with the basic assistance they needed to cope with the displacement.

To ensure treatment for the weapon-wounded, the ICRC deployed two surgical teams, established a war-surgery training programme in N’Djamena’s Liberty Hospital and delivered emergency medical supplies to civilian and military hospitals and health posts. Following the April attacks, the delegation held two war-surgery seminars for key hospital, government and aid agency personnel and helped the participants establish a medical contingency plan.

The ICRC continued to visit detention facilities countrywide, monitoring general conditions, following up the individual cases of security detainees and informing the authorities, in confidence, of its findings and recommendations. Delegates were granted access within 24 hours to the some 350 people held in N’Djamena in connection with the April attacks. They also had to step in to provide those detainees with food and medical care, while encouraging and advising the authorities on ways to provide adequate detention conditions.

The tracing and RCM services were maintained so that Sudanese refugees in all 12 camps in eastern Chad could communicate with relatives left behind. Efforts were reinforced to restore contact between child refugees and their parents and, where possible, reunite the families.

Programmes to promote IHL remained a priority, with the focus on the authorities, armed forces, academic institutions and the media. With ICRC support, the government took steps to establish an interministerial IHL committee, and the Defence Ministry issued an order reminding all commanding officers to abide by the rules of IHL applicable to a non-international armed conflict.

The Red Cross of Chad received additional ICRC support during 2006, which contributed to its effective delivery of first-aid services in the capital and eastern Chad. The ICRC also played an active part in coordinating the activities of Movement partners working in Chad. To further maximize the impact of aid, it maintained close contact with UN and other agencies in the field.

CIVILIANS

Protecting civilians

The ICRC built up its contacts with civil authorities, defence and security forces and other weapon bearers, regularly reminding them of their obligation to protect civilians from the effects of armed violence. Two days after the attacks on N’Djamena and Adré, the ICRC officially informed the government of its qualification of the situation in Chad as a non-international armed conflict and publicly called on all parties to the conflict to fulfill their obligations under IHL. Delegates collected allegations of violence committed against the population and, where necessary, made representations to the relevant parties to halt the abuses.
Assisting IDPs and residents
Given the escalation in armed violence, the ICRC provided relief goods to more than twice the number of beneficiaries planned for in 2006. The majority of people who were forced to flee their homes along the Chad-Sudan border sought refuge in nearby villages, mainly in the Dar Sila and Assoungha departments, to be close to their homes and fields. As one of the few aid agencies still present along the volatile border, the ICRC worked to ensure that the IDPs and their host communities could cope with the displacement. IDPs set up temporary homes using shelter materials and essential household items provided by the ICRC (tarpaulins, mats, blankets, jerry-cans, kitchenware and soap). Those with access to arable land received seeds and tools for the next planting season. Villages hosting IDPs upgraded water and health care facilities to meet the increased demand, with the ICRC supplying the materials and expertise. Some water and health projects had to be postponed because of security constraints.

Abéché, the regional centre of eastern Chad, and the border towns of Adrė, Iriba and Tine also received ongoing support to repair and maintain their water distribution systems, which served a total of some 130,000 people. Work had to be suspended in Tine from early 2006 after armed assailants stole an ICRC vehicle in the town and the security situation deteriorated.

At year-end, local authorities, pastoralist communities and the ICRC were jointly planning a programme to improve veterinary services in eastern Chad. Livestock had weakened because traditional migration routes were blocked by the lack of security, and pastoralists’ lives and livelihoods were also threatened by the increase in communal violence.

- 29,165 IDPs (6,032 households) received essential household items
- 25,020 IDPs (5,004 households) provided with seeds and tools
- 150,500 people benefited from completed (30,000 people) and ongoing (120,500) water projects

Restoring family links
Several thousand Sudanese refugees in eastern Chad used the tracing and RCM services to restore contact with relatives left behind. The network was made available in all 12 UNHCR camps hosting over 200,000 Sudanese refugees and was operated with the help of the Chadian Red Cross and the refugees. In coordination with UNHCR and UNICEF, the priority was to identify vulnerable refugees, particularly children separated from their parents, put them back in touch with their families through RCMs and, upon request and where possible, reunite them. Twice as many child refugees were reunited with their families in Darfur or other camps in 2006 than were in 2005.

- 7,165 RCMs collected from and
- 4,353 RCMs distributed to civilians, including 326 from and 220 to unaccompanied/separated children
- new tracing requests registered for 92 people (37 females, 16 minors at the time of disappearance); 121 people located; 319 people (111 females, 57 minors at the time of disappearance) still being sought
- 30 people reunited with their families
- 178 unaccompanied/separated child refugees newly registered; 28 reunited with their families; 554 cases of such children still being handled

PEOPLE DEPRIVED
OF THEIR FREEDOM

Visiting detainees
The number of people arrested in Chad for reasons of State security increased along with the fighting. The ICRC stepped up the number of visits to detention facilities countrywide and was the only organization granted regular and unrestricted access to detainees held in connection with the conflict. Delegates registered 772 new security detainees compared with 210 in 2005. During visits, the ICRC monitored general detention conditions and followed up the individual cases of security detainees. The authorities were informed, in confidence, of the findings and recommendations. Detainees were offered the RCM service to contact their families and, where necessary, received essential items such as soap, brooms and buckets to contribute to their general health and welfare.

The ICRC also visited and registered 140 Sudanese soldiers who had fled into eastern Chad in October seeking protection following clashes with opposition fighters in neighbouring Darfur. Those who were wounded were evacuated to medical centres. By year-end, 109 of the soldiers who were fit to travel were voluntarily repatriated, with the ICRC verifying their identities before departure and providing them with basic items for the trip. The delegation maintained a regular dialogue with the Sudanese and Chadian authorities concerning the repatriation of the remaining soldiers.

Cases of malnutrition were also discovered among inmates in Moundou prison in the south. They received the food they needed through the ICRC’s funding of a nutritional programme carried out by a local NGO.

In addition, inmates in several places of detention faced fewer health risks following the ICRC’s rehabilitation of their sanitation facilities.

- 474 detainees received food
- 477 inmates benefited from habitat projects

WOUNDED AND SICK

Treating the weapon-wounded
Hospitals in N’Djamena and eastern Chad lacked the supplies, equipment and skilled staff to cope with the increasing number of weapon-wounded over 2006.

In the aftermath of the April attacks on N’Djamena and Adrė, the Military Teaching
Hospital in the capital, which was Chad’s main referral facility for surgery, was given emergency medical supplies, as well as bedding and tents to set up more wards. The ICRC also arranged for the nine doctors of the Cuban medical mission in Chad to move into the hospital, where they performed some 500 operations over four days and ensured treatment for government and opposition troops alike. With ICRC support, Chadian Red Cross personnel collected the dead bodies, evacuated the wounded to hospital and assisted nurses in the hospital.

Following the attacks, 51 key personnel from hospitals, Chad’s Health and Defence Ministries, the French army, international organizations, NGOs and the Chadian Red Cross participated in two ICRC seminars on war surgery held in May and August. As well as updating their skills, the participants agreed on a contingency plan to treat influxes of weapon-wounded. In parallel, staff in health posts in eastern Chad benefited from first-aid training. In October, Liberty Hospital in N’Djamena initiated a war-surgery training programme, assisted by an ICRC surgeon, anaesthetist and 2 nurses. This surgical team also flew twice to Bahai in eastern Chad to help the medical facility there treat influxes of weapon-wounded.

At year-end, when fighting intensified in eastern Chad, over 300 weapon-wounded were treated by the ICRC team at Liberty Hospital and by a second ICRC surgical team deployed in early December to Abéché Hospital. Scores of wounded were evacuated by the ICRC from conflict zones to nearby health facilities and to Abéché hospital, and key civilian and military hospitals and health posts in the capital and eastern Chad received first-aid and medical supplies. As in April, Chadian Red Cross personnel, with ICRC support, collected dead bodies, evacuated the wounded to medical facilities and helped out round-the-clock at Abéché hospital, including delivering food, provided by the ICRC, to patients.

In ICRC-supported hospitals:

- 592 patients (40 women and 26 children) admitted: 435 weapon-wounded (16 women, 9 children, 91 people injured by mines or explosive remnants of war) and 157 other surgical patients (24 women and 17 children);
- 359 surgical operations performed.

Providing services for amputees

A system was set up to refer war amputees in eastern Chad to the ICRC-supported Kabalaye physical rehabilitation centre in N’Djamena. Some 50 such patients and 60 other war amputees were treated at the centre over 2006, with the ICRC funding transport and treatment. All patients at the centre were fitted with artificial limbs or other mobility appliances produced with ICRC equipment and materials, and staff benefited from two months of on-the-job training by an ICRC technician.

- 1,670 patients (317 women and 738 children) received services at 1 ICRC-supported physical rehabilitation centre
- 106 new patients (12 women and 8 children) fitted with prostheses and 103 new patients (8 women and 61 children) fitted with orthoses
- 225 prostheses (5 for women and 213 for children; 139 for mine victims), 210 orthoses (all for children, including 16 for mine victims), 1,045 crutches and 8 wheelchairs delivered

AUTHORITIES

The Chadian authorities and the ICRC met regularly to discuss protection issues in relation to the conflict, as well as the ratification of IHL treaties and the incorporation of their provisions into domestic law. During 2006, Chad ratified the Rome Statute, adopted a law implementing the Ottawa Convention and, at year-end, drafted a decree establishing a national IHL committee. To support this process, two high-level representatives of the Defence and Foreign Affairs Ministries participated in a two-day regional seminar on IHL implementation organized by the ICRC in Cameroon in April. As a follow-up, 16 government representatives took part in a two-day ICRC round-table in November, hosted by the Foreign Affairs Ministry, which launched the process of creating an IHL committee.

CIVIL SOCIETY

With the outbreak of non-international armed conflict in Chad, it was increasingly important that the public supported IHL, including the principle of humanitarian access to people affected by conflict. Academics and the media had a strong influence on public opinion. Radio was a particularly effective medium for reaching people in conflict-affected rural areas. Chad’s three main establishments of higher education – the university and civil service college in N’Djamena and the new Adam Barka University in Abéché – all taught IHL, but the subject was not yet integrated into all relevant programmes. With ICRC support, the university in Abéché extended IHL instruction from one to all three years of the law degree.

- the media regularly briefed on IHL and provided with press releases, updates and interviews on the humanitarian situation
- 3 plays conveying key IHL messages produced together with Red Cross volunteers and broadcast on radio
- a law professor at the university in Abéché participated in the ICRC’s pan-African course on IHL in Burkina Faso (see Abidjan)
- 120 first-year students at the civil service college attended an IHL lecture
**RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT**

**Building capacity**
The Red Cross of Chad had developed an efficient network of first-aiders, was in the process of reactivating its regional committees and hired a new head to reorganize tracing and RCM activities. As armed violence intensified and affected more people, the National Society received additional funds, relief goods, equipment and technical and logistic back-up from the ICRC, in coordination with the International Federation, to build up its emergency response, tracing and dissemination programmes.

With ICRC support, the Chadian Red Cross:
- evacuated the wounded to hospital, assisted the authorities in collecting and identifying dead bodies and provided nursing aides to hospitals in the aftermath of the 13 April attack on N’Djamena and during the year-end fighting in eastern Chad;
- established a conflict preparedness plan prior to the May presidential elections and fielded first-aiders at polling stations;
- conducted first-aid refresher courses for volunteers in Abéché, Goz Beida and N’Djamena;
- helped in the annual clean-up campaign in N’Djamena to combat cholera;
- broadcast on national radio a weekly 15-minute programme on IHL, the Fundamental Principles and Movement activities.

**Coordinating Movement activities**
To maximize the impact of aid efforts, Movement partners active in Chad met regularly to coordinate their activities. As the acknowledged expert in situations of armed conflict, the ICRC played an active role in coordination and assisted Movement partners with emergency preparedness, security and public communication. For example, when fighting escalated in eastern Chad in December, there was a regular exchange of security information between the International Federation and the Chadian Red Cross, which were jointly running two UNHCR refugee camps, and the ICRC.
In 2006, the ICRC:
- ensured that the basic needs of hundreds of thousands of civilians were met through water supply projects, support to health facilities and the distribution of essential household items and agricultural inputs;
- continued to address the problem of sexual violence in South Kivu and extended the project, comprising prevention, awareness-raising and medical and psychosocial support, to North Kivu;
- through its operational partnership with the Red Cross of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, helped to restore family links through the RCM network and reunited 382 unaccompanied children and 259 children demobilized from armed groups and forces with their families;
- visited and monitored security detainees in both prisons and places of temporary detention;
- held numerous IHL familiarization sessions for weapon bearers, magistrates and opinion-leaders.

In the first half of the year, the national army (FARDC) continued to conduct military operations against Mai Mai groups in central Katanga, causing large-scale population displacements. In May, the leader of one of the most active of these armed groups surrendered to MONUC.

The FARDC and MONUC stepped up joint operations against militias and foreign armed groups in Ituri and North and South Kivu early in the year. Towards the end of the year, hostilities again broke out in Ituri and North Kivu, with MONUC providing military support to FARDC operations around Goma. Many civilians were displaced by the fighting, and looting, rape and the burning of villages were widespread.

Public services, in particular health and education, were in crisis, and the majority of the population continued to live in severe poverty. Many people, especially those in conflict-affected areas, remained dependent on outside aid.

The transition process in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), laid out in the Sun City peace accords, ended officially in May 2006. In December 2006, Joseph Kabila was elected president, following the Supreme Court's confirmation of his victory in polls in July and October. Despite tensions over the course of the elections, Jean-Pierre Bemba, runner-up in the polls, publicly accepted the Court's decision. The political coalition that backed President Kabila during his campaign won the majority of parliamentary seats. Antoine Gizenga was appointed prime minister at the end of the year.

The UN Security Council authorized the temporary deployment of a European Union force to support the UN Mission in the DRC (MONUC) over the period of the elections and extended MONUC's mandate into 2007. In January, nine Guatemalan peacekeepers were killed in the north of Province Orientale.

The ICRC opened a permanent delegation in Zaire, now the Democratic Republic of the Congo, in 1978. It promotes respect for the basic rules of IHL and human rights law by the authorities in their treatment of civilians and detainees. It ensures that displaced people and residents affected by armed conflict and violence have the means to survive and become self-sufficient and that the wounded and sick receive adequate health care. It works to restore contact between separated family members – where necessary and possible reuniting children with their families – and supports the development of the National Society.
ICRC ACTION

The ICRC maintained its presence in the field to assess and respond to the needs of the civilian population. It concentrated its operations in the volatile North and South Kivu provinces and in parts of Katanga, and to a lesser extent in Maniema and Province Orientale. Following a security review, it began to access some new areas, but Ituri, where six of its staff members were killed in 2001, remained off-limits.

For people affected by conflict in Katanga and North and South Kivu, including those displaced by renewed outbreaks of fighting in North Kivu mid-year and at the end of the year, the ICRC carried out a range of assistance and protection activities. These included evacuating the wounded, supporting hospitals and health posts, distributing essential household items, briefing weapon bearers on IHL and reminding parties to conflict of their obligations towards the civilian population.

The ICRC and the Red Cross of the DRC helped family members separated by conflict stay in touch through the RCM service and made the tracing network, comprising more than 300 Red Cross volunteers, available to people seeking relatives with whom they had lost contact. The network was also used to locate the families of children who had been demobilized from armed groups or the armed forces, so that they could be reunited where desired and feasible.

For victims of sexual violence, the ICRC extended its multidisciplinary programme of medical and psychological support from South to North Kivu. To reduce the incidence of rape and lift the stigma and discrimination which victims often faced, it made confidential representations to the relevant authorities and ran community awareness campaigns, in addition to providing medical treatment and counselling.

As well as providing regular support to health centres and hospitals in conflict-affected areas, the ICRC was one of the few international organizations involved in ensuring that victims of conflict in need of physical rehabilitation had access to treatment. It provided five centres in Bukavu, Goma, Kinshasa and Mbuji Mayi with materials, training and technical supervision.

In regions where the security situation had stabilized, water supply projects and agricultural and fishing programmes were undertaken to improve the population’s living conditions. In coordination with the authorities, the ICRC provided structural support to such projects, with a view to handing them over to development organizations.

Delegates followed the individual cases of security detainees and monitored conditions in places of detention more generally. The ICRC stepped in with additional food rations when nutritional levels fell particularly low, and supplied medicines and hygiene items in certain prisons.

The ICRC continued to work closely with the Red Cross of the DRC and to provide it with material, technical and financial support. Cooperation included the drafting of a national emergency preparedness plan, which was put into action twice during the year.

The ICRC coordinated with other humanitarian agencies operating locally, including those participating in the emerging UN cluster system, in order to strengthen complementarity and avoid duplication or gaps in protecting and assisting those most in need.

CIVILIANS

Protecting civilians

Fighting in the Kivu provinces, northern Katanga and the Ituri district drove tens of thousands of people from their homes. Hundreds of civilians were killed and many suffered other forms of violence.

In May, the leader of a major Mai Mai group turned himself in to MONUC forces. Ninety children who were formerly associated with such groups in Katanga and who were taken into custody received protection and support from the ICRC.

The ICRC reminded the FARDC and armed groups of their obligation to stop the recruitment of minors, to ensure the security of IDPs and to spare civilians not directly involved in the hostilities.
Addressing sexual violence
In North and South Kivu, the multidisciplinary programme for victims of sexual violence continued. Interviews with victims and documented cases were used to prepare a representation for submission to the relevant authorities. Victims of sexual violence were treated in health centres and counselled. A course of antiretroviral drugs was given as post-exposure prophylaxis to those who reached the centres within three days of being assaulted.

- 592 victims of sexual violence treated in ICRC-supported health centres, of whom 81 received post-exposure prophylaxis
- 1,317 victims of sexual violence counselled by ICRC-trained volunteers
- 75 Red Cross volunteers and 46 counsellors/health team personnel participated in 5 training sessions on psychological support to victims of sexual violence
- 7,170 people in the Ruzizi plain, South Kivu, attended 5 plays about sexual violence

Restoring family links
As communications improved, the RCM service was directed at people without other means of communicating with relatives.

Unaccompanied and vulnerable children were reunited with their families, where appropriate, and centres caring for them provided with assistance. When children were found unaccompanied in the immediate aftermath of population displacements in North Kivu, the ICRC and the National Society accelerated the search for their families, mostly still on the move, by posting lists of the children's names in public places.

Child refugees from the DRC were reunited with their families in eastern DRC by the ICRC and the National Society. The ICRC provided material assistance and centres caring for them were reunited with their families, where appropriate, and centres caring for them. A course of antiretroviral drugs was given as post-exposure prophylaxis to those who reached the centres within three days of being assaulted.

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Strengthening health care
Health services continued to suffer from an acute lack of medicines and materials, especially in areas affected by fighting.

Eleven health centres received regular and ad hoc assistance, enabling them to meet increased needs arising from population movements.

In North Kivu, after a four-month break owing to insecurity, the ICRC resumed support to the Machumbi health centre, now a referral structure offering major surgery. In February, a health centre in Kibirizi received one-off assistance to meet IDPs’ needs.

In South Kivu, renovation of the Runinga health centre was completed. Two other centres, in Sange and Bwegera, were assisted by the ICRC, and a system linking subsidies to service quality was introduced.

Training to prevent malaria and HIV/AIDS was conducted in ICRC-supported centres in North and South Kivu, and new treatments were made available from May onwards.

The delegation worked to strengthen the community network caring for victims of sexual violence (see above).

In ICRC-supported centres:
- 38,439 consultations (15,099 ante- and postnatal, 23,340 curative) given;
- 19,231 vaccine doses administered (15,829 to children aged 5 or under, 3,402 to women of child-bearing age);
- 324 health education sessions held;
- 1 rural health centre serving about 7,500 people renovated.

Improving water supply
Two water treatment plants in the Maniema region and a pumping station and water supply network in Katanga were renovated and upgraded, in collaboration with Regideso (the urban water board). Construction of a pumping station in North Kivu and a water treatment plant in South Kivu began.

Seven water supply systems were installed in North and South Kivu in collaboration with the Service National d’Hydraulique Rurale. Three well- and borehole-construction projects were under way in villages in Katanga. Two well-construction and spring-improvement projects were completed in Province Orientale with the National Society.

Regideso benefited from training jointly conducted by the Société Nationale de Distribution d’Eau in Brazzaville, Congo, and the ICRC.

- 140,000 urban and 128,000 rural residents gained an improved water supply; 647,900 people, including some 500,000 in Goma, set to benefit from ongoing projects

Assisting conflict-affected populations
The security situation in North and South Kivu and the northern districts of Katanga worsened in the first five months of the year, and the rural population suffered looting, rape, the destruction of villages and other violence.

IDPs received essential household items, including blankets, cooking sets, buckets, clothing, hoes and soap and in some cases tarpaulins. In rural communities, the ICRC provided material assistance and training to farmers’ and fishermen’s associations and developed projects with the State agricultural and fishery services. In South Kivu, the renovation of a State-run fishery was completed, and the regional unit of the Ministry of Agriculture received laboratory equipment.

- 110,175 people (22,034 households) received essential household items
- 59,016 people (10,953 households), including 10,000 returnees in Katanga and more than 35,000 people grouped in 211 farmers’ associations, provided with seeds/cuttings and tools
- 24,060 people (4,812 households) benefited from fish-farming inputs, and 155 fishermen’s associations provided with training
Security detainees were visited and followed individually by ICRC delegates. The conditions of detention and treatment of the general prison population were also monitored. Where necessary, recommendations were made to improve conditions of detention, and the authorities were reminded of their obligation to respect detainees' judicial guarantees. The ICRC gained access to some detention facilities that it had previously been unable to visit.

- 5,771 detainees visited, 536 of them monitored individually (15 females, 6 minors), including 143 newly registered (12 women, 3 minors), during 162 visits to 33 places of detention
- 7,074 RCMs collected from and 5,156 RCMs distributed to detainees
- 55 detention certificates issued to former detainees or their families

Given the limited resources, living conditions in many prisons remained unsatisfactory. Inmates' needs were generally covered by charities and religious organizations, but in certain instances the ICRC stepped in to ensure they received adequate nutrition. A nutritional survey was performed in seven prisons, and support maintained for kitchen garden projects.

- 909 detainees received supplementary food rations during the year
- 741 detainees in 3 places of detention received seeds and tools as part of prison kitchen garden projects to improve standards of nutrition

Detainees also benefited from ICRC interventions to improve the provision of health care, hygiene and sanitation in prisons. The dispensary in Bukavu central prison, wrecked during riots, was rebuilt, and Goma prison’s water and sanitation systems were renovated. In Kisangani and Bukavu central prisons, three new nurses were appointed, and detainees’ access to health care was improved. Access to HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis programmes was facilitated through cooperation between provincial health partners and the ICRC.

- 4,808 detainees provided with essential household items
- 7 prisons housing approximately 5,000 detainees provided with medical supplies every three months
- 635 detainees in prisons in Goma and Bukavu benefited from completed water and habitat projects

Hospitals in North and South Kivu were supplied with medicines and materials, including kits to treat weapon wounds.

- 1,130 patients (140 women, 73 children) received services at 5 ICRC-supported centres
- 856 new patients (106 women and 55 children) fitted with prostheses and 235 (29 women and 16 children) with orthoses
- 941 prostheses (115 for women and 68 for children; 143 for mine victims), 381 orthoses (51 for women and 29 for children; 44 for mine victims), 1,366 crutches and 12 wheelchairs delivered

In South Kivu, the ICRC continued to provide hospitals in Lemera, Mubumbano, Panzi and Uvira with medicines and medical and laboratory materials. Renovation of the Mubumbano referral hospital was completed. The Uvira hospital was assessed by ICRC technical staff and received management support. Twenty-five hospital and provincial health authority staff attended a three-day workshop.

In North Kivu, assistance to the Pinga hospital was suspended twice owing to the security situation. A new building at Kirumba hospital improved the delivery of health services.

In total, 18 hospitals were supplied with medicines and materials (including one-off distributions of kits to treat weapon-wounded patients). Two hospitals, covering the health needs of more than 180,000 people, were renovated.

HIV/AIDS treatment for victims of sexual violence was improved through seven training sessions.

In hospitals receiving regular support:

- 24,807 patients (13,891 women and 7,896 children) admitted: 544 weapon-wounded (50 women, 14 children); 4,726 other surgical cases; 4,859 medical, 7,581 gynaecological/obstetric, and 7,097 paediatric patients
- 4,732 surgical operations performed;
- 41,334 outpatient consultations given

Civilian and military conflict victims in need of physical rehabilitation had access to treatment, reimbursed by the ICRC, in five centres in Kinshasa, Mbuji Mayi, Goma and Bukavu. An ICRC specialist helped to upgrade the quality of services provided. Three Congolese prosthetic/orthotic technicians attended a refresher course in Addis Ababa.

- over 1,000 people (representatives of political, administrative and local authorities and magistrates) attended information sessions on IHL in 6 provinces
- over 80 MONUC officials in 2 provinces attended sessions on IHL and the ICRC and its mandate

Delegates conducted regular information sessions for Congolese army and police officers.

In line with a directive issued by the Defence Ministry regarding the integration of IHL into the training of the DRC’s new armed forces, the command and general staff colleges and the ICRC strengthened their cooperation. Delegates participated in training for future battalion/brigade commanders and instructors at camps integrating former members of armed groups into the new national army.
The Unité de Police Intégrée, which was in charge of security during elections, participated in a four-month course on IHL/human rights run by the ICRC in coordination with the European Union Police Mission in the DRC.

The delegation established contacts with leaders of some armed groups in North and South Kivu. Members of armed groups were given educational material aimed at ending sexual violence against women.

- 53 IHL refresher courses held for military instructors at army integration camps
- over 4,000 officers and troops of the FARDC attended IHL sessions in army integration camps and 2,000 elsewhere
- 2,000 police officers in 6 provinces briefed on IHL and the ICRC and its mandate
- 200 other bearers of weapons attended information sessions on IHL and the ICRC and its mandate

**CIVIL SOCIETY**

The ICRC maintained contact with the media, development NGOs and academic circles to gain their support for its activities.

- 17 information sessions on IHL and the ICRC held for over 900 civilians
- 29 press releases and 3 information bulletins distributed and 11 radio/TV spots broadcast
- 166 NGO staff members attended information sessions in 3 provinces
- 280 students from 3 universities attended 4 information sessions on IHL
- 204 journalists participated in 6 workshops on IHL and the ICRC
- an IHL lecturer sponsored to attend the pan-African course on IHL in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso (see Abidjan)
- over 390 magistrates attended 3 IHL lectures in 3 provinces
- an album “Peace Boyz” on the rights of the child during armed conflict recorded and launched
- posters and a special bulletin released as part of the “victims of sexual violence” programme
- a video and audio campaign launched during the football world cup comparing the need for respect for the rules of football with the respect required for the rules applicable in armed conflict

**RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT**

The annual cooperation agreements between the Red Cross of the DRC and the ICRC provided a framework within which to reinforce the National Society’s activities in the areas of tracing, assistance and dissemination of IHL and the Fundamental Principles. In addition to the provision of logistics support and various training sessions, the salaries of certain staff members were paid.

- up to 360 volunteers dealt with RCMs, tracing requests and family reunifications; management capacity to provide the tracing service at the provincial and national level enhanced, and salaries of 3 key tracing staff paid
- 86 dissemination sessions for internal and external audiences held in 11 provinces and 20,000 copies of the Red Cross quarterly gazette *Echos de la Croix-rouge* published and distributed; vehicles and audiovisual materials provided, as well as support for meetings, training courses, publications and World Red Cross Day celebrations across the country
- 1,233 first-aiders trained; 3,000 copies of a first-aid training manual and 10,000 copies of a practical guide to first aid published
- central database for micro-projects installed at National Society headquarters; some 95,000 people covered by 28 micro-projects in 10 provinces

Eleven provincial assemblies, two sessions of the central committee and the general assembly of the Red Cross of the DRC were supported logistically and financially by the ICRC. On 1 December, the National Society elected a new president and a new central committee.

In its role as lead agency in this context, the ICRC facilitated regular meetings of the Movement in Kinshasa as well as in the provinces. Security advice was given, and logistical support (including ICRC flights) provided to the National Society, the International Federation and partner National Societies, including the Belgian, German and Spanish Red Cross Societies.
The ICRC has operated in the Congo since 1994, first through the Kinshasa regional delegation and since 1998 as a separate delegation. The ICRC promotes respect for IHL and human rights law by the authorities in their treatment of civilians and detainees. It encourages the inclusion of IHL in the instruction of the armed forces, police and gendarmerie. The ICRC provides civilians affected by the conflict with agricultural tools and seeds; improves water, sanitation and health care facilities; and restores contact between separated family members, where necessary reuniting children with their families. It also helps strengthen the operational capacities of the Congolese Red Cross.

**KEY POINTS**

- In 2006, the ICRC:
  - maintained assistance programmes for people in Pool and kept up protection activities alongside them; initiated work to improve access to potable water for 35,000 people; supported 9 health care facilities; improved the economic security of some 17,000 people through agricultural and fish-breeding programmes;
  - closed its Kindamba office and prepared to close the Mindouli office, as part of a phased withdrawal from the Pool region;
  - visited detainees in Brazzaville and Pointe-Noire;
  - continued providing tracing and family-reunification services, notably for Rwandan refugee children separated from their families;
  - participated in the Reinforcement of African Peacekeeping Capabilities (RECAMP V) conference in Brazzaville;
  - cooperated with the Congolese Red Cross in restoring family links.

**CONTEXT**

In 2006, President Denis Sassou-Nguesso succeeded Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo as president of the African Union (AU) and participated in negotiations to resolve ongoing crises on the African continent. Congo was also elected as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council. In May, Brazzaville was the venue for the Reinforcement of African Peacekeeping Capabilities (RECAMP V) conference, a joint initiative of the AU and the European Union (EU).

Preparations for the 2007 legislative elections got off to a slow start, with essential issues such as a population census remaining unresolved at the end of the year. The return from exile of Bernard Kolelas, an emblematic figure in Congolese politics who had been sentenced to death in absentia, prompted speculation about his possible political role.

Congo edged closer to qualifying for further debt relief under the World Bank/International Monetary Fund debt relief initiative for heavily indebted poor countries. Meanwhile, France cancelled debts owed to it by the country, and the World Bank approved a loan to revive the Congo’s economy.

A solution to the deadlock in the Pool region remained elusive. The government and the National Resistance Council (NRC) led by Reverend Ntumi failed to find common ground on political partnership. Consequently, implementation of the disarmament, demobilization and rehabilitation programme in the region could not get under way, and a substantial number of small arms remained in circulation. Reconstruction and development had all but stalled, infrastructure and services remained woefully inadequate and unemployment high. The repair of the Brazzaville-Kinkala road with EU funding offered hope of a fresh boost to trade and the local economy.

The situation in Pool no longer qualified as a humanitarian crisis but rather as a transition period marked by relative stability and calm, albeit marred by acts of banditry. Vulnerable populations living in isolated areas continued to rely on humanitarian assistance provided by the few international humanitarian organizations permanently present in the region, notably the ICRC, Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) and the Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development.

Congo was hit by serious flooding in November, causing loss of life, landslides in urban areas and widespread damage to property.

**EXPENDITURE (IN KCCH)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount (KCCH)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Protection</td>
<td>927</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assistance</td>
<td>3,028</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prevention</td>
<td>1,740</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cooperation with National Societies</td>
<td>411</td>
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<tr>
<td>General</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>6,107</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Of which: Overheads</strong></td>
<td>373</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**IMPLEMENTATION RATE**

Expenditure/yearly budget 86%

**PERSONNEL**

- 13 expatriates
- 110 national staff (daily workers not included)
The ICRC maintained a permanent presence in Pool, with expatriate and local staff operating from offices in Kindamba, Kinkala and Mindouli. Recurrent acts of banditry by armed groups at the end of 2005 compelled the organization to suspend its activities for six weeks at the beginning of 2006. They resumed once the security situation had improved. The ICRC closed its Kindamba office in June as part of a strategy to hand over responsibility for civilian welfare to the government and began preparations for the closure of its office in Mindouli, planned for January 2007.

In Pool, the effects of successive conflicts and lingering political uncertainty kept basic infrastructure (health facilities, water supply systems, schools and roads) in a state of ruin or disrepair, leaving the already impoverished population without the means to meet its basic needs.

Through structural support to the health, water, agricultural and fish-breeding sectors, the ICRC improved access of civilians to essential health services and enhanced the economic security of some 17,000 people. Assistance programmes carried out as part of a protection strategy enabled the organization to remain close to the population and to gain a clear understanding of its security and living conditions. Alongside these programmes, the ICRC impressed upon the authorities the need to assume their obligations towards the population.

CIVILIANS

Protection of civilians
Living conditions in Pool remained inadequate and in some cases precarious for particularly vulnerable sections of the population. Although the security situation stayed relatively stable, there were occasional reports of civilians being subjected to intimidation, extortion, looting, theft and other acts of violence by weapon bearers. Law enforcement agents were poorly equipped and courts still inoperative in Pool, making it difficult to enforce the rule of law. Civilians in certain locations were displaced for short periods following incidents triggered by tensions within the NRC or between militias and the armed forces.

The ICRC remained in close proximity to the population in sensitive areas of Pool. Its strategy was to assist people in need while obtaining a clear picture of their security and living conditions. Sustained dialogue was kept up with all parties to make them aware of their obligations towards the population, such as safeguarding access to basic services and humanitarian and development aid.

Restoring family links
Over the year, unaccompanied children from Democratic Republic of the Congo and Rwanda the were monitored by the ICRC. All but three children re-established contact with their families through RCMs and, where possible, were reunited with them.
Regular contact with UNHCR and government authorities facilitated the exchange of information and ensured that activities did not overlap. While ICRC efforts focused on children not accompanied by any family member, UNHCR concentrated on support to children separated from their parents. Refugees continued to rely on the RCM service to correspond with their families in their home countries, while people living in remote areas without other means of communication used the service to maintain contact with relatives abroad.

- 1,540 RCMs collected from, and 1,913 distributed to civilians, including 5 from and 11 to unaccompanied/separated children
- New tracing requests opened for 18 people (9 females and 9 minors at the time of disappearance); 8 people located; 17 people (8 females and 9 minors at the time of disappearance) still being sought
- 3 unaccompanied/separated children registered; 3 reunited with their families; 10 cases of such children still being handled
- 4 people reunited with their families (including the 3 above-mentioned unaccompanied/separated children)
- 1 person issued with an ICRC travel document

Food and economic security
The majority of former IDPs had returned to their places of origin in 2004. This created problems of its own, with many obliged to rebuild their lives from scratch and already impoverished communities having to share scarce resources with the returnees. Meanwhile, the absence of a durable and inclusive peace agreement kept long-term and economic recovery programmes at bay.

- 2, 460 people (492 households) received essential household items

Cassava and fish-breeding programmes
The authorities, who implemented a cassava programme jointly with the ICRC, became increasingly concerned by the threat to food and economic security posed by the unchecked spread of the mosaic virus affecting cassava plants. They distributed food seed and allocated some funds for the multiplication of healthy cassava varieties, but their concern did not translate into tangible action, such as assuming their full share of responsibility in the programme.

In the departments of Pool and Plateaux, the local agricultural authorities and the ICRC continued work on six plots in which 12 cassava varieties were screened for tolerance to the mosaic virus, productivity and adaptability to the local agricultural and ecological conditions. Varieties selected were multiplied and distributed. While the results from the cassava plants grown from the cuttings distributed to 95 associations in October 2005 were encouraging, they revealed that the development of the cuttings depended on local conditions.

Additional associations received healthy cuttings for multiplication and tools such as ploughs. Some 900 farmers from associations that received ICRC support in 2005–2006 attended 30 sessions on the virus and methods of combating it. Local agents of the Ministry of agriculture in Pool and Plateaux received logistical support to help them intensify their field activities and services to the rural population.

Civilians in Pool were able to improve their diet and economic security thanks to the revival of fish-breeding and related activities. The programme was undertaken in close collaboration with the local fisheries sector. Through the programme, fishing associations received support in the form of fishing equipment and materials for the restoration or construction of fish ponds and 120 of their representatives attended 6 seminars on the setting up and management of fish ponds.

By the end of 2006, the programme had proved to be a real success, having become a stable supplier of juvenile fish in the districts concerned. Several individual fish breeders got their supplies from associations supported by the ICRC, as did a private investor, who leased and restored the Mindouli fisheries centre.

A total of 17,120 people (3,837 households) benefited from agricultural/micro-economic initiatives:

- 7,765 people (1,553 households) benefited from the cassava programme;
- 9,355 people (1,871 households) benefited from the fish-breeding programme.

Health care
The ICRC consolidated its partnership with the health authorities. Through regular meetings, it encouraged them to take specific measures – including the allocation of technical and financial resources – to fulfill their obligation to meet the population’s health needs. Nine integrated health centres received regular support from the ICRC in the form of supervision and medical and other supplies. Assistance to two of the health centres had to be suspended temporarily, when they stopped working owing to a lack of qualified personnel. One of them resumed activity in November.

Various partners, such as MSF and the EU, which also ran or supported health facilities and programmes in Pool, coordinated their efforts with those of the ICRC.

The authorities assumed responsibility for the Kibouendé and Kimba health centres and Madzia maternity unit. These centres together with the one in Kimanika and the hospital in Kindamba benefited from various rehabilitation projects, mainly involving sanitation facilities (latrines, showers and a rubbish pit) and water supply systems.
In Kinkala and Mindouli districts, women of reproductive age were given three rounds of vaccinations, while children were vaccinated through ICRC support to the Expanded Programme on Immunization.

In the 9 ICRC-supported integrated health centres (catchment population: 727,000):

- 47,189 consultations (4,949 ante/ postnatal, 42,240 curative, including 23,298 to women) were given;
- 13,529 vaccine doses were administered (11,420 to children aged five or under and 2,109 to women of childbearing age);
- rehabilitation work made it possible to conduct 120 consultations daily;

Training, including workshops organized jointly with the Health Ministry, focused on the management of community-based health care systems, the prevention of disease, and health promotion.

In total 668 health education sessions were held and included the following:

- 39 members of village health committees, including heads of health centres and government officials, attended 3 workshops on public health issues;
- 28 health workers and birth attendants participated in a workshop on hygiene and reproductive health;
- 18 health workers trained in national protocols to combat malaria and in the national health information system;
- 17 health workers and matrons trained in delivery and baby care.

Contingency stock
An emergency kit to cover the health needs of 10,000 IDPs for three months remained in place.

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

Detainees held in temporary and permanent places of detention in Brazzaville and Pointe-Noire under the jurisdiction of the Ministries of Justice, Defence and Security and Public Order continued to receive visits from the ICRC. Particular attention was paid to detainees held for reasons of State security.

- 661 detainees visited, 13 of whom monitored individually, during 12 visits to 7 places of detention
- 5 RCMs collected from and 10 RCMs distributed to detainees
- 7 detention certificates issued to former detainees or their families
- 60 inmates of 8 police stations in Brazzaville and Pointe-Noire benefitted from the renovation or construction of latrines and water supply systems

WOUNDED AND SICK
Five people wounded during past conflict were treated at the central military hospital in Brazzaville with drugs and medical supplies donated by the ICRC.

Contingency stock
A surgical kit and medical supplies, including anaesthetics, for the treatment of 100 wounded people remained in place.

AUTHORITIES

The Congolese authorities created a 12-member interministerial IHL committee for the implementation of IHL, which received support from the ICRC in drafting a document on its legal framework.

- national IHL committee members attended 2 workshops on IHL implementation
- 2 committee members attended a regional IHL meeting in Yaoundé, Cameroon
- 28 representatives of regional economic communities and various ministries attended a conference in Brazzaville on ICRC humanitarian diplomacy in Africa
- 107 local government officials in Brazzaville attended IHL sessions
- some 250 high-ranking representatives of regional bodies and donor countries attended a RECAM P V conference in Brazzaville

ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

All categories of weapon bearers participated in a range of activities organized by the ICRC to enhance their knowledge of IHL and/or humanitarian principles and to support integration of IHL into their training, doctrine and operations.

Armed forces
- members of the Defence Ministry’s permanent committee and sub-committees created to supervise the promotion of IHL/human rights law in the armed, security and police forces attended workshops to review their activities
- 66 IHL military instructors attended 2 training courses
- 3 officers trained in San Remo, Italy
- 6 military training centres received technical and material support in revising their IHL curricula and training courses
- some 5,050 army personnel and cadets, including members of the Presidential Guard, participated in sessions on IHL and the Movement
- 30 officers briefed as part of RECAM P V

Police and gendarmerie
The reopening of the police academy, which had been closed for a year and a half, provided a much-needed institutional framework for incorporating human rights and humanitarian principles into the police training programme.

- 47 police officers, trainers and gendarmes attended courses on human rights and aspects of IHL applicable to law enforcement
- 2 representatives of the police and gendarmerie attended a pan-African seminar organized by the ICRC in Pretoria, South Africa
- over 1,650 rank and file and cadets of the police and gendarmerie and senior Security Ministry officials in Brazzaville, Pointe-Noire and Pool attended sessions on the ICRC, human rights and humanitarian principles applicable to police and security operations

Other weapon bearers
Some 4,000 people in various parts of Pool, including 220 members of the NRC, attended a play on the work of the ICRC and the National Society produced in Lari.
CIVIL SOCIETY

The media, NGOs, university students, lecturers, schoolchildren, teachers and other members of civil society continued to benefit from ICRC efforts to raise public awareness of IHL, the Movement and the Fundamental Principles.

- A regional workshop on the African Court on Human and Peoples’ Rights, organized by a local human rights association, attended by the ICRC
- Some 30 media representatives attended 2 press conferences on ICRC activities; national media frequently cited ICRC press releases

The authorities were encouraged to take IHL into account in the reform of university education. As a result, IHL became compulsory for law degree courses in two universities.

- A lecturer teaching IHL at 2 institutions of higher education participated in the pan-African IHL course in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso
- Students and lecturers at Marien Ngouabi University in Brazzaville took part in a round-table discussion on IHL and a session on IHL and the ICRC.

RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT

The Congolese Red Cross continued to receive financial, material and technical support from the ICRC in carrying out its activities.

During the flooding and landslides in November, the National Society had ICRC support and material assistance, provided in coordination with the International Federation, in transferring the remains of victims to the mortuary.

The Pointe-Noire branch of the Red Cross was supported in a pilot project to collect and distribute RCMs; the project achieved such encouraging results that plans were made to replicate it.

- A bill on the protection of the emblem drafted and submitted to the relevant ministry for review
- National Society branch offices in Kindamba and Mindouli rehabilitated; restoration of Kinkala branch office begun
- National Society representatives attended the 29th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent in Geneva, Switzerland, and a conference on tracing in Nairobi, Kenya
- 105 volunteers attended 4 training sessions on HIV/AIDS and played a vital role in relaying messages on the issue to communities
- 8 National Society officials attended a workshop on IHL, the Movement and the Fundamental Principles
eritrea

KEY POINTS

In 2006, the ICRC:
- provided essential household items to some 49,000 IDPs and residents in the Temporary Security Zone, including families who had recently returned home or resettled; improved access to water for over 44,000 border residents, returnees and IDPs and helped 285 returnees build or rebuild homes;
- provided over 12,800 border residents and returnees with tractor-ploughing services and another 51,600 with veterinary treatment for their livestock to boost agricultural production;
- together with the Red Cross Society of Eritrea, collected some 10,500 RCMs and distributed more than 11,700 RCMs, mainly on behalf of relatives separated by the closed Eritrea-Ethiopia border, and reunited 24 children with family in Ethiopia;
- assisted in the voluntary repatriation of just over 1,000 people to Ethiopia or Eritrea and provided financial support enabling over 1,000 people of Ethiopian origin to complete repatriation procedures or obtain or renew Eritrean residence permits;
- monitored the treatment and living conditions of detainees of Ethiopian origin, including former POWs who had declined repatriation, in 52 detention facilities;
- conducted surgical training for Eritrean medical personnel, who performed 260 operations in 3 district hospitals in the border region.

CONTEXT

Despite increased international efforts to resolve the border issues between Eritrea and Ethiopia, the process to physically peg out the new border remained on hold for the fourth consecutive year. On 29 September, the UN Security Council extended the mandate of the UN Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea (UNMEE) until 31 January 2007, the fifth such extension in 2006. From April, UNMEE had been reduced by a third, leaving some 2,300 peacekeepers monitoring the Temporary Security Zone (TSZ) between the two countries.

In late 2005, Eritrea announced that it no longer needed food aid to meet its requirements. Over 2006, the government introduced a new policy of cash for work, saying this was to prevent the population becoming dependent on outside aid. It also declared its intention to sell some 90,000 tonnes of international food aid at local markets. Several more aid agencies stopped their activities in Eritrea, leaving only a handful of international organizations working in the country.

As part of a government programme, most of the people displaced by the 1998–2000 international armed conflict with Ethiopia left camps in the TSZ between April and June and returned to their home villages or were resettled in border regions. Not all resettled families had yet been granted access to land. At year-end, around 14,000 IDPs were still living in camps.

Following average rainy seasons in 2005 and 2006, harvests were back to normal. In the TSZ, however, a combination of isolation, the border stalemate, the effects of past conflicts and a scarcity of basic commodities continued to hamper chances of economic recovery.
ICRC ACTION

In accordance with its accepted role in Eritrea, the ICRC focused on meeting the needs of people still affected by the international armed conflict with Ethiopia. The delegation carried out most of its scheduled activities, although a few programmes had to be cancelled, discontinued or scaled back because of a change in needs or the introduction of new government procedures.

Delegates followed the situation in the TSZ closely. They stood ready to document any alleged incidents of violence and make any necessary representations to the parties concerned, and to provide emergency aid if needed.

The ICRC continued to visit detainees of Ethiopian origin and the few remaining former POWs who had declined repatriation in 2002. It also monitored the situation of the Ethiopian community in Eritrea. The aim was to ensure that the rights of those people, regarding their living conditions and repatriation, were respected in accordance with international humanitarian standards and, where applicable, the Third and Fourth Geneva Conventions. The ICRC had to discontinue financial assistance in March 2006 to help people of Ethiopian origin to obtain or renew residence permits, owing to a change in government administrative procedures. It continued, however, in its role as a neutral intermediary, to provide members of the Ethiopian community with any information they needed to make an informed decision about repatriation. It helped complete clearance procedures for those who decided to return home and assisted in their voluntary repatriation, providing transport and basic supplies for the trip. It also maintained the tracing and RCM services so that relatives could communicate across the closed border. At their request, children and other vulnerable people were reunited with their families across the border.

The ICRC was the main international provider of water, shelter and essential household items to IDPs living in camps in the TSZ. As the majority of IDPs left the camps in 2006, the ICRC cancelled plans to improve their shelter. From April, the bulk of assistance activities focused on border regions with returnee and resettled families. In coordination with the government, the ICRC ensured that those families had any essential household items they lacked and helped the worst-off build or rebuild homes. It also upgraded community water facilities both to cope with the increased demand and to improve general access. Solar-powered water supply systems were favoured, with the aim of reducing fuel dependency and cutting overall running and maintenance costs. To boost agricultural production in the TSZ, the delegation expanded its schemes, begun in 2005, to pay for tractors to plough fields and treat livestock against parasites.

To increase Eritrea’s surgical capacity, the ICRC, in cooperation with the Health Ministry, initiated a training programme on general surgery for medical staff and students in the Gash Barka border region and at the medical and nursing schools in Asmara.

Some 30 Eritrean armed forces trainers attended IHL instructor’s courses. Other small-scale programmes to spread knowledge of IHL progressed as planned, targeting local authorities in the border regions, UNMEE, personnel in detention facilities, students and the general public.

With ICRC support, the Red Cross Society of Eritrea continued to develop its tracing and RCM, relief, dissemination and mine-risk education programmes.

CIVILIANS

Providing water for residents
Many water facilities in the border region had been damaged or destroyed by conflict. In cooperation with the Water Resource Department, 26 communities in the TSZ requested and took part in ICRC projects to improve their water supply. To reduce running and maintenance costs, solar-powered water supply systems were favoured and community committees formed and trained in their maintenance. Water storage facilities such as dams or ponds were built alongside the new systems. They were used to water livestock and irrigate crops, but also to replenish boreholes, thus ensuring a continuous supply of water. Around 1,200 people in villages far from a water source transported water with 237 special bags provided by the ICRC. The worst-off
families also received a total of 57 donkeys, which allowed them to collect more water and thus gain time for other productive activities, such as tending crops. Donkeys could also carry fodder, harvested crops or other goods, or serve as personal transport, for example to ride to market.

- 56,065 residents benefited from completed (32,175 people) and ongoing projects (23,890 people) to construct 16 solar-powered water supply systems, 6 water storage facilities and 7 hand-pump or motorized water supply systems

Boosting crop and livestock production
To complement the water programme, projects to improve the economic situation of the largely rural farming population in the TSZ were carried out. The projects included areas with returnee and resettled families.

Many families lacked the manpower or means to pay for ploughing. This meant that they had to leave their land fallow or share it with other families, which reduced their already meagre incomes. To increase the amount of cultivated land and reduce sharecropping, 26 villages had their fields ploughed by tractors, with the ICRC paying for the service. The timely ploughing, together with fair-to-good rainy seasons in 2006, contributed to all the villages reaping a good harvest.

Farmers in the TSZ traditionally kept livestock to cover large one-off expenses such as tractor ploughing. To ensure livestock were healthy, 273,000 animals in two border regions were inoculated against parasites, in cooperation with the Agriculture Ministry. Residents who had shared scant resources with nearby IDP camps over the years were provided with a small number of animals.

- 12,840 (2,568 households) people benefited from the paid services of tractors that ploughed 1,826 hectares
- 51,680 (10,336 households) residents benefited from veterinary assistance
- 190 residents (50 households) provided with 202 goats

Assisting IDPs and returning families
IDPs still in camps in the TSZ continued to receive any shelter materials and essential household items they lacked (tarpaulins, tents, blankets, kitchenware, jerrycans and soap), and the ICRC maintained their water facilities. The bulk of assistance, however, focused on the some 33,000 IDPs who returned home or were resettled between April and June 2006. They also received any shelter and household items they needed, and community water facilities were upgraded to meet the increased demand. The worst-off families, the majority headed by women, were able to reconstruct or build homes, with the help of ICRC materials, supervision and, in some cases, cash to hire skilled labour. In a project carried out with the Eritrean Red Cross and other local partners, villages with returnee or resettled families also received training and materials to build energy-saving ovens. The ovens reduced the amount of time and energy women had to spend collecting firewood and slowed down deforestation. In a cash-for-work project, the inhabitants of a village with 672 returnees repaired a 1.3 km access road that linked them to other communities and markets.

- 48,375 IDPs (12,837 households), including returnees, and 785 residents (157 households) received essential household items
- 17,990 IDPs and returnees benefited from completed (11,890 people) and ongoing projects (6,100 people) in 5 camps and 5 villages to build 14 water supply systems (13 solar-powered and 1 motor-driven)
- 5,535 returnees benefited from completed (285 people) and ongoing projects (5,250) to reconstruct/build homes
- 10,845 returnees and residents benefited from ongoing projects to build energy-efficient ovens

Protecting civilians
While working in and near the TSZ, ICRC delegates raised awareness of IHL during discussions with the authorities and UNMEE. In the event of a change in the situation along the border, they were ready to document any alleged incidents of violence against civilians and make representations to the parties concerned.

The ICRC also monitored the living conditions of civilians of Ethiopian origin living in Eritrea and made any necessary representations on their behalf to the authorities. Just over 1,000 members of the Ethiopian community who had little or no income or support received financial assistance to obtain or renew their residence permits. This programme was discontinued in March 2006, owing to a change in government procedures.

Restoring family links
As the border was closed and there were no telecommunication and postal services between Ethiopia and Eritrea, thousands of people relied on the tracing and RCM network to locate and exchange news with relatives across the border. At their request, children, the elderly and the infirm were reunited with family members across the border.

In accordance with the 1949 Geneva Conventions, the ICRC continued to advocate that the Eritrean and Ethiopian authorities establish mechanisms to provide families with information about relatives still unaccounted for in relation to the 1998–2000 international armed conflict. By year-end, no feedback had been received concerning 211 such people of Ethiopian origin and 153 of Eritrean origin whose names the ICRC had submitted to the Eritrean and Ethiopian authorities respectively in March 2005.

- 10,283 RCMs collected from and 11,613 RCMs distributed to civilians
- new tracing requests registered for 66 people (26 females, 14 minors at the time of disappearance); 55 people located; 344 people (124 females, 97 minors at the time of disappearance) still being sought
- 38 people, including 24 children, in Eritrea reunited with family in Ethiopia, and 40 children in Ethiopia reunited with family in Eritrea
- 40 unaccompanied/separated children newly registered; 24 reunited with their families; 32 cases of such children still being handled

Repatriations
People of Ethiopian or Eritrean origin who wished to be repatriated could do so, with the ICRC acting as a neutral intermediary. They were provided with basic supplies for the trip and short stay in a transit camp. They could also have their official documents, mainly education certificates, retrieved and forwarded to them so that they could apply for a job or continue their studies. For the first time in several years, the authorities authorized the repatriation to Ethiopia in October of three families of mixed origin (wives of Eritrean origin and husbands and children of Ethiopian origin). During 2006, 83 needy people of Ethiopian origin received financial support to cover clearance procedures prior to voluntary repatriation.

- 934 people voluntarily repatriated from Eritrea to Ethiopia and 70 from Ethiopia to Eritrea
- 116 documents forwarded from Eritrea and 9 from Ethiopia
PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

Visiting former POWs and other detainees of Ethiopian origin

The ICRC continued to visit detainees of Ethiopian origin held in Eritrea and the few remaining former POWs who had declined repatriation in 2002, and followed up with the authorities other individual cases of former POWs still pending. Delegates monitored their treatment, living conditions and respect for their rights in accordance with international humanitarian norms and the Third and Fourth Geneva Conventions. The authorities were informed, in confidence, of the ICRC’s findings and recommendations. The former POWs and detainees could stay in contact with their families through RCMs and received any essential items (blankets, clothing, shoes and hygiene items) they lacked. During the visits, detention personnel were briefed on IHL and ICRC activities.

- 300 detainees (21 females, 23 minors) followed up individually, including 207 newly registered (19 females, 21 minors), in 52 places of detention during 85 visits
- 224 RCMs collected from and 182 RCMs distributed to detainees
- 25 detention certificates issued to former detainees or their families

WOUNDED AND SICK

Decades of armed conflict had disrupted professional training in Eritrea, leaving the country short of surgeons.

In a new initiative, Eritrean medical personnel took part in training courses and lectures conducted by an ICRC surgeon and anaesthetist, in cooperation with the Health Ministry. The programme primarily targeted Agordat, Barentu and Tessenay hospitals in the Gash Barka border region (population 800,000) and Asmara’s medical and nursing schools. Three general practitioners in Gash Barka benefited from year-long ICRC training and supervision in general surgery, performing 260 operations and carrying out pre- and post-operative assessments and follow-up. In parallel, nurses and student nurses in Gash Barka and from other regions participated in lectures and refresher courses on general surgery, anaesthesics and pre- and post-operative care. To further boost surgical capacity, the Health Ministry and Eritrea’s medical school received input to set up a postgraduate curriculum. Gash Barka hospitals were also provided with supplies, equipment and logistics back-up. The assistance helped Agordat hospital set up a blood bank and allowed children whose parents could not afford to travel to Asmara’s paediatric referral hospital to be treated in Gash Barka.

AUTHORITIES

During 2006, local authority representatives in various parts of the country, including ministry officials and administrators, immigration officers, detention personnel, police and the military, took part in introductory presentations on IHL and the ICRC’s mandate and activities. Two ICRC films and an IHL leaflet were translated into Tigrinya to enhance the programme. The talks had a favourable influence on the ICRC’s level of acceptability and working relations with the authorities, and thus on its ability to protect and assist people still affected by the 1998–2000 conflict with Ethiopia.

Government officials in Asmara and the ICRC also met regularly. Discussions focused on ICRC field operations and the importance of the ratification and implementation of IHL treaties. The authorities were offered technical support for the latter, in particular to integrate into domestic law the provisions of the 1949 Geneva Conventions, which Eritrea had ratified in 2000.

- 607 local authorities participated in 7 presentations on IHL and the ICRC

ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

The Eritrean Defence Forces agreed on a small-scale IHL training programme for 2006 aimed at building on the introductory and advanced IHL courses held in 2004 and 2005. For the first time, an experienced Eritrean military instructor helped facilitate the courses. His positive contribution represented a step forward in the integration of IHL into all armed forces training programmes.

- 22 armed forces instructors trained as IHL instructors
- 9 ICRC-trained military IHL instructors participated in a refresher course
- with ICRC sponsorship, 1 officer attended an IHL course in San Remo, and the head of Eritrea’s police training centre participated in a regional IHL workshop in South Africa (see Pretoria)

CIVIL SOCIETY

As past efforts to generate Eritrean media interest in IHL had not been successful, communication initiatives in 2006 focused on academics and the general public. The University of Asmara, Eritrea’s sole university, was closed down in September and the lecturers transferred to newly opened regional colleges. Initial contact was made with some of the colleges, and they received IHL publications.

- IHL and the Movement promoted, together with the Eritrean Red Cross, through a World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day marathon in Asmara broadcast on national television, and a Red Cross pavilion at the annual week-long festival in Asmara, attended by over half a million people
- Asmara public library provided with standard IHL reference materials
- higher-education institutions and individual students provided with information and materials on IHL and the ICRC

RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT

Over 2006, the Red Cross Society of Eritrea made further progress in boosting its management skills, building up its tracing, RCM and first-aid services and reinforcing the promotion of IHL and the Fundamental Principles. The headquarters and branches carried out a range of activities with the help of ICRC funds, materials, equipment and technical advice.

Responding to emergencies

- some 24,000 people transported to medical facilities countrywide by the Red Cross ambulance service, with some municipalities contributing to running costs
- 140 volunteers trained in first aid and disaster management and 32 personnel in the Safer Access approach
- branches provided with 1,065 first-aid manuals for distribution to the general public
some 1,300 police officers, industrial workers, transport drivers and students participated in first-aid courses
first-aid services provided and demonstrations conducted in the main towns of 5 regions

Reducing mine risk
54,663 people in 4 affected regions attended mine-risk education sessions conducted by 26 trained volunteers, who also collected data on mine incidents for the authorities
7 new volunteers trained in mine-risk education

Restoring family links
the tracing and RCM network evaluated and being adapted in line with the recommendations
Red Cross personnel in all 6 regions participated in a total of 11 tracing courses
a promotional leaflet on the tracing and RCM services produced in Tigrinya and English

Promoting IHL and the Movement
over 35,000 people, including government officials, police officers, business leaders, teachers and students, attended dissemination sessions
40 volunteers trained as disseminators
newsletters, brochures and other promotional items produced and distributed
drama and sporting events staged at festivals in Asmara and Massawa
108 volunteers from all 6 branches benefited from a three-day exchange programme to share ideas and experiences
In 2006, the ICRC:
- monitored the individual cases of 2,088 security detainees in 234 detention facilities and improved infrastructure in prisons housing some 7,700 inmates;
- improved access to clean water for some 150,000 residents and distributed food to 30,000 IDPs in violence-prone regions;
- as drought relief, trucked in water for 70,000 people, provided 24,000 people with food and 42,000 people with seeds and tools, and treated 336,000 head of livestock against disease;
- together with the Ethiopian Red Cross Society, distributed over 14,000 RCMs and collected some 16,000 RCMs on behalf of family members separated by conflict;
- trained armed forces instructors to teach IHL and conducted IHL workshops and briefings for over 30,000 military, security and police personnel;
- supported 8 physical rehabilitation centres that treated some 9,000 patients and significantly boosted their production of artificial limbs and other mobility devices;
- provided the Ethiopian Red Cross with funds, relief goods and logistics back-up to help drought, flood and conflict victims.

**CONTEXT**

Over 2006, relative calm returned to Ethiopia's urban centres after the 2005 post-election unrest, but political tensions persisted. Conflict intensified in the Somali Regional State (SRS), a severe drought hit southern areas, followed by flash floods, and at year-end, the government intervened militarily in neighbouring Somalia.

An Ethiopian parliamentary enquiry into the post-election unrest, published in October 2006, concluded that security forces did not use excessive force, and put the number of civilian casualties at around 900. The trial was in progress of the some 100 people remaining in custody, mainly opposition party members. Some international donors critical of the government's reaction during the 2005 disturbances cancelled their direct funding to Ethiopia, but this was later reinstated.

Armed violence continued to flare up in various regions of Ethiopia, fuelled by a mix of ethnic and political grievances. Armed opposition groups were operating in the SRS, Amhara, Benishangul-Gumuz, Oromia and Tigray. Ethnic clashes again affected Gambella, sometimes involving the army, as well as the SRS, Afar and the Southern Nations, Nationalities and People's Regional State (SNNPRS). The level of violence subsided in the second half of 2006, except in the SRS, where clashes between government forces and the opposition Ogaden National Liberation Front intensified.

In late December, Ethiopian armed forces entered into the conflict in Somalia, assisting Somalia’s transitional federal government in ousting the Supreme Islamic Courts Council from most areas it controlled. To the north, unresolved border issues stalled the demarcation of the Ethiopia-Eritrea frontier for the fourth consecutive year.

The ICRC has been continuously present in Ethiopia since 1977. Its priority is to protect and assist people detained, displaced or otherwise affected by the 1998–2000 international armed conflict with Eritrea or by internal violence or disturbances, often compounded by natural disasters. The ICRC provides emergency aid, but also implements medium-term assistance projects to preserve the livelihoods of vulnerable communities, and supports physical rehabilitation services. It visits security detainees, restores family links, particularly for relatives separated by the closed Eritrea–Ethiopia border and for Sudanese refugees, promotes IHL and supports the Ethiopian Red Cross Society.
The ICRC monitored violence-prone regions, documented allegations of abuse, and facilitated the implementation of activities for communities in five violence-affected regions. In early December, the ICRC resumed work in the SRS after two ICRC staff were kidnapped there by armed assailants on 18 September. They were detained until 18 October. In accordance with humanitarian principles and, where necessary, made representations to the parties concerned, in accordance with humanitarian principles and, where applicable, IHL. The ICRC also mounted a drought-relief operation in the SRS between February and May. The emergency aid (food, water and agricultural, veterinary and health assistance) targeted the worst-off families in areas of the SRS where other organizations faced security and logistics constraints. In parallel, the delegation carried out scheduled assistance projects aimed at helping communities in five violence-affected regions to preserve or improve their livelihoods. In the second half of 2006, the ICRC began adapting those projects in line with recommendations made in an independent evaluation, finalized in August 2006, of its 2004–2006 economic security programme in Ethiopia.

By year-end, despite continuous efforts, the ICRC had not yet regained access to federal prisons, denied since the November 2005 post-election unrest, and some other main detention facilities. Delegates visited some 200 other places of detention countrywide, monitoring the treatment and living conditions of security detainees and informing the authorities, in confidence, of its findings and recommendations. The ICRC encouraged and supported the authorities’ initiatives to improve detention conditions, while stepping in where necessary to upgrade prison infrastructure and provide medical care.

In accordance with the 1949 Geneva Conventions, the ICRC followed up with the authorities any remaining cases of former POWs of Eritrean origin, as well as requests from families for news of relatives still missing in relation to the 1998–2000 international armed conflict with Eritrea. It assisted in the voluntary repatriation of civilians to Eritrea and Ethiopia, delivered RCMs sent between relatives separated by the closed border, and reunited vulnerable people with family across the border. Sudanese refugees in Ethiopia also used the tracing and RCM network to contact relatives.

The ICRC provided medical facilities with supplies to treat the weapon-wounded and supported eight limb-fitting centres. As the World Bank was helping Ethiopia upgrade physical rehabilitation infrastructure, the delegation ended its direct cash support to the sector and focused on providing materials and supervision.

The promotion of IHL remained a priority, with the focus on the authorities, defence and police forces, academic institutions and influential sectors of civil society. Building on its 2005 initiative, the ICRC held more workshops and briefings for military and police personnel on IHL and internal security operations.

The Ethiopian Red Cross received substantial support to build up its emergency response, tracing and dissemination programmes.

CIVILIANS

Non-international armed conflict and other situations of violence continued to put civilians’ lives and livelihoods at risk.

Protecting civilians

The ICRC monitored violence-prone regions, documented allegations of abuse against civilians and made any necessary
representations to the parties concerned, in accordance with humanitarian principles and, where applicable, IHL.

Providing emergency aid
To help them regain a measure of self-sufficiency, people directly affected by conflict or intercommunal clashes were provided with, as needed, food, shelter materials and essential household items (tarpaulins, blankets, sleeping mats, kitchenware, Jerry-cans and soap). The food aid was distributed by the Ethiopian Red Cross.

Drought victims in the south of the SRS received a combination of emergency and recovery aid. The drought-relief operation began in February and wound up in May, when the rains arrived, and was supported by the Ethiopian Red Cross. Activities were coordinated with other aid agencies and Ethiopian government bodies in the field. The ICRC targeted the SRS zones (Afar, Fik, Gode and Liben) that presented security or logistics constraints for other organizations. Near-destitute families received a one-month food ration. Pastoralists had a regular supply of water over three months, delivered by 28 trucks to 40 distribution points set up or rehabilitated by the ICRC. To reduce the livestock mortality rate, 336,000 animals were treated against disease and parasites. Around 7,000 vulnerable farming families (42,000 people) were given seeds to plant when the rains arrived, and the ICRC repaired or provided fuel to run 301 irrigation pumps along the Shebele river. To combat the spread of disease, 16 health facilities received enough medical supplies to treat up to 90,000 people for two months, and Health Ministry mobile teams had the loan of three cars for a month.

Preserving community livelihoods
Pastoralists and farmers living in violence-prone regions worked with the ICRC on a combination of water, agricultural, veterinary and health projects designed to help them preserve or improve their livelihoods and avoid long-term dependence on aid.

After training and the provision of supplies, 30 community animal-health workers were offering basic veterinary services in all 15 zones of Boromodaitu district (population 44,000) in Afar. As a complement, seven communities received seeds, tools and training to improve fodder production. To further boost production and income in the district, three cooperatives repaired their irrigation canals and planted cashcrop bananas and tomatoes, with the ICRC supplying materials and expertise. All zones also had access to primary health care services provided by 56 midwives and health workers who had been trained by the ICRC and continued to receive the necessary medicines. Eighteen Ministry of Health staff participated in a refresher course on health care provision, and a pharmacy was being built to improve community access to drugs. Villages were also provided with 150 household water filters and two water reservoirs were constructed to improve access to clean drinking water and thus reduce health risks.

In the SRS, Gambella, Tigray and West Hararghe (Oromia), the local authorities, communities and the ICRC together built a total of 750 latrines and 228 water points and trained local committees to maintain them. This completed the ICRC’s water and sanitation programme in West Hararghe, initiated after the 2003 drought. In the SRS, farming cooperatives along the Shebele river received fruit-tree saplings to vary their diet and boost income, and herders, including female heads of household, were trained in livestock management. At an ICRC-organized workshop, local officials, suppliers, livestock owners and aid agencies agreed on ways to improve access to good quality veterinary drugs. In Gambella, 20 rural cooperatives and some 50,000 returnees began rebuilding their livelihoods (fishing, agriculture, small shops and restaurants), with the ICRC supplying materials and expertise. By year-end, almost half of the cooperatives were making a profit. To improve public health in Gambella, some 6,000 people received mosquito nets, and one clinic was rehabilitated, with two more under construction.

Restoring family links
Thousands of people used the tracing and RCM services to communicate with relatives across the closed Ethiopia-Eritrea border. At their request, children, the elderly and the infirm were reunited with family members across the border.

In accordance with the 1949 Geneva Conventions, the ICRC continued to advocate that Ethiopia and Eritrea establish mechanisms to provide families with information about relatives still unaccounted for in relation to the 1998–2000 international armed conflict. By year-end, no feedback had been received concerning 153 such people of Eritrean origin and 211 of Ethiopian origin whose names the ICRC had submitted to the Ethiopian and Eritrean authorities respectively in March 2005.

- 11,090 RCMs collected from and 11,419 RCMs distributed to civilians, including 49 from and 22 to unaccompanied/separated children
- new tracing requests registered for 90 people (36 females, 24 minors at the time of disappearance); 25 people located; 464 people (134 females, 90 minors at the time of disappearance) still being sought
- 40 children reunited with family in Eritrea, and 38 people, including 24 children, in Eritrea reunited with family in Ethiopia
- 44 unaccompanied/separated children newly registered; 40 reunited with their families; 34 cases of such children still being handled
- Sudanese refugees in five UNHCR-run camps in Ethiopia, as well as relatives scattered by internal violence, also used the tracing and RCM network to contact family left behind. A priority was to identify and register children separated from their parents, restore contact through RCMs and, if possible, reunite them with their families.

- 4,898 RCMs collected from and 2,960 RCMs distributed to civilians, including 38 from and 40 to unaccompanied/separated children
- new tracing requests registered for 6,718 people (198 females, 881 minors at the time of disappearance), mainly in connection with the 2005 election-related unrest (see People deprived of their freedom); 6,036 people located; 883 people (297 females, 121 minors at the time of disappearance) still being sought
2 unaccompanied/separated children newly registered; 3 reunited with their families; 462 cases of such children still being handled

Repatriation
The ICRC continued to monitor the situation of people of Eritrean origin living in Ethiopia and made any necessary representations on their behalf to the authorities. People of Ethiopian or Eritrean origin who wished to be repatriated could do so, with the ICRC acting as a neutral intermediary. They were provided with transport and basic supplies for the trip and a short stay in a transit camp, and their official documents, mainly education certificates, were retrieved and forwarded to them so that they could apply for a job or continue their studies. For the first time in several years, the authorities authorized the repatriation to Ethiopia in October of three families of mixed origin (wives of Eritrean origin and husbands and children of Ethiopian origin).

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

At year-end, despite continuous efforts, the ICRC had not yet regained access to federal prisons or Addis Ababa police stations, denied by the authorities since December 2005 and April 2006 respectively. The delegation did, however, follow up just over 6,500 enquiries from families for news of relatives allegedly arrested in connection with the June and November 2005 post-election disturbances. Most detainees were released and at year-end just 134 cases of persons unaccounted for were unresolved.

The ICRC continued to visit other detention facilities countrywide, monitoring the individual cases of security detainees, and followed up with the authorities a small number of pending cases concerning former POWs of Eritrean origin. The authorities were regularly informed, in confidence, of the ICRC’s findings and recommendations concerning detention conditions, detainees’ treatment and the application of judicial guarantees. Federal and regional authorities also received an in-depth ICRC report, based on over 300 interviews in 25 detention facilities, on respect for pre-trial and trial rights of detainees held in connection with the 1991 change of government.

Inmates were provided with hygiene and other essential items and could correspond with their families through RCMs. Some prisons were assisted in providing medical care for detainees and in building or upgrading water and sanitation facilities, kitchens and separate blocks for women. In parallel, at ICRC-organized workshops and round-tables, prison staff and the local authorities in four regions discussed what initiatives they could take to improve detention conditions. The detaining authorities in Amhara, Oromia, the SNNPRS and Tigray agreed in principle to set up regional detention technical units, comprising engineers and medical experts, but at the time faced financial and other constraints.

WOUNDED AND SICK

Providing emergency care
With the help of ICRC funds and medical supplies, just over 100 weapon-wounded were treated in hospitals and health facilities in Addis Ababa, Afar, Amhara and Gambella. Gambella hospital was also assisted in treating cholera victims during an outbreak of the disease in May and June.

Supporting physical rehabilitation services
There were an estimated 380,000 physically disabled people in Ethiopia, around 25,000 of them conflict victims. With World Bank funding, the country was upgrading its physical rehabilitation services. Direct ICRC cash support for the sector was, therefore, phased out, while eight main centres (Addis Ababa, Arba Minch, Asela, Bahir Dar, Dessie, Harar, Mekele and the Cheshire facility near Menegesh) received more raw materials, components and on-the-job supervision to improve management and patient care. Arba Minch and Asela benefited from the full-time presence of an ICRC expert. Six of the centres signed agreements on management and production processes, which contributed to a significant rise in the delivery of mobility devices.

AUTHORITIES

After a busy election year in 2005, the authorities resumed discussions with the ICRC on the ratification and implementation of IHL treaties. The government gave the green light to publish the ICRC’s Amhara translation of the 1977 Additional Protocols, which Ethiopia had ratified but not yet incorporated into domestic law. It was also considering a proposal to reactivate its interministerial committee on IHL, with the ICRC providing technical and legal input.

Outside the capital, regional and local authorities in violence-prone areas took part in nine presentations on IHL and the ICRC.

ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

The Ethiopian National Defence Force (ENDF) and police continued to work with the ICRC to develop training programmes on IHL and international human rights standards for all ranks. The subjects were taught at ENDF and police training institutions, but they were not consistently included in combat orders and there was a shortage of instructors. Building on a 2005 initiative, ENDF and police officers took part in specialized training on IHL and human rights standards applicable to international security operations, while the rank and file stationed in violence-prone regions were briefed on the subject. Military medical personnel, attachés and female officers also benefited from ICRL workshops tailored to their specific roles, and the police academy was assisted in upgrading its curriculum.

30 ENDF instructors trained to teach IHL during 2 two-week workshops
RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT

The Ethiopian Red Cross Society (some 900 staff and 90,000 volunteers) had a proven capacity in tracing and dissemination and was building up its management skills and first-aid and assistance programmes. Over 2006, the National Society helped the ICRC deliver emergency aid, run the tracing and RCM network and promote IHL and the Fundamental Principles countrywide. With substantial ICRC support (funds, materials and technical expertise), it carried out a variety of initiatives to develop these activities, especially at headquarters and in 14 branches situated in violence-prone regions.

Building infrastructure and management skills

- 4 new branch offices built and 1 renovated
- running costs in 14 branches and the salaries of key headquarters and branch staff covered
- activities in 38 branches monitored

Providing relief and assistance

- drought, flood and conflict victims provided with emergency aid
- 716 personnel in 30 branches trained in first aid
- a countrywide ambulance service provided, and 15 new ambulances and 13 service vehicles purchased
- 4 three-year projects completed, benefiting communities in drought-prone areas and mine victims, HIV/AIDS sufferers and street children in Tigray

Restoring family links

- 162 Red Cross personnel participated in 8 regional tracing workshops
- branches provided with 200 tracing manuals

Promoting IHL and the Fundamental Principles

- local authorities and the public attended dissemination sessions in 25 branch areas
- programmes to mark World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day broadcast on television and radio and events organized at branch level
- 40 personnel from 34 branches trained as disseminators
- all branches provided with dissemination materials

CIVIL SOCIETY

To raise public awareness of IHL and humanitarian issues, the ICRC fostered contacts with the media, influential community members and institutes of higher education. Most of the main State and private universities and colleges taught IHL, but the standard of instruction varied.

- elders and other traditional community leaders attended introductory talks on IHL
- public events organized to mark International Women’s Day, World Water Day and World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day
- law faculties of Addis Ababa University and regional higher-education institutes provided with IHL materials, training for lecturers and technical advice
- 3 university students sponsored to participate in the annual IHL moot court competition in the United Republic of Tanzania (see Nairobi)
- national and international media provided with press releases, interviews and field trips
KEY POINTS

In 2006, the ICRC:
- co-hosted with the African Union (AU) the African launch of the ICRC’s study on customary international humanitarian law, followed by an AU-ICRC “brainstorming day” on improving the application of IHL in situations of armed conflict in Africa;
- provided the AU with technical and legal advice on integrating IHL into an AU framework policy on post-conflict reconstruction and development and a convention on IDPs;
- as part of a working group at the Africa Governance Forum, advocated that IHL implementation be a factor in evaluating a State’s governance;
- gave presentations in Addis Ababa on “Violence against girls in Africa during armed conflicts and crises” at a meeting organized by Child Policy Forum, an African NGO, and on “IHL and landmines” at a European Union coordination meeting;
- to strengthen cooperation with the AU on IHL promotion, attended the 2 AU summits and had regular meetings with representatives of AU Commission departments and ambassadors of AU member States, providing them with publications and updates on IHL and ICRC activities;
- was granted the status of special invitee at meetings of the AU Coordinating Committee on Assistance and Protection to Refugees and IDPs.

CONTEXT

Throughout 2006, conflict resolution remained at the top of the agenda of the African Union (AU), with the organization appealing for additional support from its member States and the international community to meet the challenge.

In a breakthrough in May, AU mediators brokered the Darfur Peace Agreement (see Sudan). In November, the Peace and Security Council extended the mandate of the AU’s 7,000-strong mission in Sudan until the end of June 2007, while agreeing in principle on UN support for AU peacekeepers in Darfur. The AU also called on Chad and Sudan to cooperate to restore stability along their volatile border. Increasing attacks by armed opposition groups in Chad and the Central African Republic were condemned by the AU as unconstitutional, and the AU Commission chairperson urged the parties to engage in peace talks.

The increasing instability in Somalia prompted the AU to reiterate its support for the Somali transitional federal government and call on the UN to lift its arms embargo on Somalia to allow the deployment there of an AU-mandated peacekeeping force, under the auspices of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development. The AU also called on all parties to the conflict in Somalia to respect IHL, including ensuring safe access for aid workers to people in need, and appealed in December for a resumption of peace talks by early 2007.

The AU praised the conduct of elections in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and reaffirmed its support for the conflict-torn country’s transition to peace and reconstruction. To resolve the stand-off in Côte d’Ivoire, the AU convened a meeting of the main actors and later recommended extending the mandates of the country’s president and prime minister for 12 months. The decision was endorsed in November by the UN Security Council.

Good governance also remained a key AU theme. At the AU summit in June, all 27 signatory countries were urged to initiate by end-2006 the African Peer Review Mechanism, a process whereby States monitored and reported on each other’s progress towards political and economic reform. The summit also stressed the need for African regional economic communities to harmonize their policies and work with the AU to promote peace and security and political and economic integration on the continent.
ICRC ACTION

The ICRC pursued its efforts to spread knowledge of IHL among AU Commission staff and representatives of member States and to draw attention to humanitarian issues, focusing on the need to protect and assist people affected by armed conflict. Its permanent mission to the AU worked to ensure that AU policies and programmes featured IHL, where relevant, and encouraged the AU to draw on the ICRC’s specific expertise in relation to IHL.

To this end, the AU and the ICRC co-hosted the African launch of the ICRC’s study on customary international humanitarian law, followed by a joint AU-ICRC “brainstorming day” on ways to improve respect for IHL on the African continent in situations of armed conflict. The ICRC also maintained regular contact with members of the AU Commission and its departments and other AU and AU-associated bodies and, when requested, took part in their meetings. The ICRC’s technical and legal input on IHL was taken into account in the formulation of an AU policy paper on post-conflict reconstruction and development and in an initiative to establish an AU convention on IDPs.

Through its network of delegations in Africa, the ICRC consolidated its cooperation with African regional economic communities, which, in coordination with the AU, played an increasing role in promoting peace and security on the continent.

The ICRC also endeavoured to forge closer links with African NGOs, both to deepen its understanding of humanitarian issues in Africa and to promote IHL. It also maintained contact with UN agencies and international organizations based in Addis Ababa to promote IHL and exchange information on humanitarian concerns and activities in areas of common interest.

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

AUTHORITIES

Co-hosting of IHL promotion events with the AU

Under AU auspices, the ICRC’s study on customary international humanitarian law was launched on the African continent on 31 October in Addis Ababa before an audience of representatives of AU member States, the diplomatic community, African academic circles, NGOs and international organizations. In his opening remarks, Burkina Faso’s ambassador to Ethiopia and chairman of the Sub-Committee on Refugees, Returnees and IDPs of the AU Permanent Representatives Committee said customary IHL reflected African regulatory traditions and should therefore be integrated into the continent’s policy and law. The AU commissioner for political affairs and the ICRC’s vice-president presented the study, which identified 161 rules of customary IHL derived from States’ common practice.

The following day in Addis Ababa, the AU and the ICRC held their ninth joint “brainstorming day” on IHL, this year on the theme “IHL and the protection of civilians in situations of armed conflict in Africa”. Discussion between representatives of AU member States, members of the AU Commission’s Political Affairs and Peace and Security departments and the ICRC produced a number of recommendations, including the incorporation of IHL into peace treaties and the production by the ICRC of an IHL guide for countries emerging from conflict. The participants also invited the relevant AU bodies to regularly examine the status of IHL implementation on the African continent and encouraged the ICRC to reinforce its assistance to African parliaments in ratifying and implementing IHL treaties.

Promoting IHL at AU meetings

At the start of 2006, members of the Peace Support Operations Division of the AU Commission attended a briefing on IHL and the specific support and expertise that the ICRC could offer it in promoting respect for that body of law.

Following the briefing, the ICRC, at the invitation of the Peace Support Operations Division, participated in workshops defining the role of AU standby peacekeeping brigades. The ICRC provided input on the inclusion of IHL in relevant documents and restated its offer to help integrate IHL into the forces’ training, doctrine and operations. In parallel, African regional economic communities and the ICRC, through its network of delegations in Africa, discussed the support the ICRC could offer in IHL training for their AU-mandated standby peacekeeping brigades, as well as the application of IHL to situations of armed conflict or internal violence in their member States.

At the AU’s request, the ICRC also attended a meeting held in Addis Ababa in February to formulate an AU policy on post-conflict reconstruction and development in Africa. At the event, the ICRC highlighted the IHL provisions that applied in post-conflict periods, including the protection of people still detained in connection with conflict, the right of families to know the fate of missing relatives and the obligation of the State to bring to justice people accused of grave breaches of IHL. Participants were also reminded of the need for States emerging from conflict to ratify and implement IHL treaties, train their armed forces in IHL and promote IHL among civil society opinion-makers. The resulting draft policy framework, which incorporated the ICRC’s input, was adopted at the AU’s June summit. This was followed up by an AU workshop in Addis Ababa in September, also attended by the ICRC, to discuss the policy’s implementation.

To highlight the plight of IDPs in Africa and their rights under IHL, participants at the AU ministerial conference on refugees and IDPs, held in June in Burkina Faso, received the ICRC’s non-paper entitled “Operational challenges in responding to the plight of IDPs”. An ICRC lawyer also participated in the meeting of experts at the conference. These initiatives contributed to the adoption of a motion to establish a committee of African legal experts and members of relevant international organizations to draft an AU convention on IDPs for submission to the 2007 Addis Ababa summit. In addition, the AU Coordinating Committee on Assistance and Protection to Refugees and IDPs granted the ICRC the status of special invitee, which allowed the organization to participate directly in the committee’s work.

The ICRC also drew attention to the pertinence of IHL at the 6th Africa Governance Forum held in May in Rwanda on the topic “Implementing the African Peer Review Mechanism: challenges and opportunities”. Over 400 officials from 30 African countries attended the event. The ICRC’s recommendation that IHL implementation be a key factor in measuring good governance was included in one of the working group’s reports to the Forum.

To further strengthen its cooperation with the AU in the promotion of IHL, the ICRC also attended the two AU summits held during the year and other relevant AU meetings, including the EU-Africa Ministerial Conference on Migration and Development (November in Libya), the 8th Session of the Committee of Experts on the Rights and Well-being of the Child (November in Addis Ababa) and the Government Experts
Meeting on Early Warning and Conflict Prevention (December in South Africa). In addition, AU Commission members and ambassadors of AU member States, including those who ensured the rotating presidency of the Peace and Security Council, met the ICRC regularly in bilateral meetings to share analyses of humanitarian issues and were provided with IHL materials and updates on ICRC activities. Topics of special interest were the work of the AU Mission in Sudan and progress on the International Conference on Peace, Security, Democracy and Development in the Great Lakes Region.

**African Parliamentary Union**

During the annual meeting of the African Parliamentary Union (APU) in November in Burundi, the Union’s secretary-general and the ICRC discussed the follow-up to the APU’s Niamey and Cotonou declarations, adopted in 2002 and 2004 respectively. The declarations formally committed the APU to ensuring, with ICRC support, that its member States acceded to IHL treaties and incorporated their provisions into domestic law. During a bilateral meeting in December, the president of the APU’s Executive Committee reaffirmed to the ICRC her willingness to support the secretary-general in establishing an APU committee to review the status of IHL implementation in member countries.

**Coordinating humanitarian diplomacy**

UN agencies and NGOs represented at the AU and the ICRC maintained regular contact in order to share information, broaden their expertise and coordinate humanitarian diplomacy on issues of common interest. During a two-day conference in May in Addis Ababa, hosted by Child Policy Forum, an African NGO, participants attended an ICRC presentation on “Violence against girls in Africa during armed conflicts and crises” and received a paper on the subject.

At the invitation of the organizers, the ICRC also participated in various other conferences held in Addis Ababa which were not convened by the AU but drew a large number of AU officials and representatives of AU member States. At one such event, a European Union coordination meeting held in April, the ICRC gave a presentation on IHL and landmines.
**KEY POINTS**

In 2006, the ICRC:

- monitored 165 detainees individually during 103 visits to 38 prisons and continued negotiations on access to security detainees held in other locations; provided ad hoc emergency assistance to address malnutrition among prison inmates and completed water and sanitation projects in 14 prisons;
- completed the rehabilitation of the Yalenzu water treatment plant;
- organized the 2nd IHL moot court competition for participants from Guinea’s 3 main universities;
- continued cooperation activities with the National Society, including providing it with material support and training, helping it assist casualties of social unrest and supporting the construction of its national headquarters;
- supported a campaign by the Security Ministry’s IHL and Human Rights Bureau during which 1,200 security force members were trained in IHL and relevant human rights principles.

**CONTEXT**

Guinea’s economy remained grim. The job market and the public service sector continued to perform dismally. Inflation stayed very high, while shortages of basic commodities persisted and fuel costs surged, driving up prices of basic goods and essential services. All this, compounded by inadequate salary adjustments, only impoverished the population further.

Guineans responded by staging massive protests and general strikes demanding price reductions and improved infrastructure and public services. The strikes were organized by two major trade unions in February–March and June. The demonstrations turned violent as the year wore on, resulting in heavy casualties, material damage and arrests, particularly in Conakry and other urban centres. The social unrest looked set to continue as the unions announced a “final” strike for early 2007.

Concerns about President Lansana Conté’s health and the issue of his succession intensified. Political tensions rose, culminating in April in the sacking of the prime minister – largely seen as the driving force behind reforms – and his inner circle, and the reshuffling of key government posts. This did not ease the tensions, however, as the political elite jockeyed for position with President Conté’s succession in mind.

**EXPENDITURE (IN KCHF)**

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**IMPLEMENTATION RATE**

Expenditure/yearly budget 91%

**PERSONNEL**

- 25 expatriates
- 148 national staff (daily workers not included)

The ICRC has worked in Guinea since 1970 and opened its operational delegation in Conakry in 2001. Since then, the ICRC has been extensively involved in protection activities, particularly restoring family links, visiting detainees and advising the penal authorities. At the same time, it promotes IHL among the armed and security forces, political authorities, the media and the public. It works with the Red Cross Society of Guinea to strengthen its capacities to respond to emergencies and restore family links.
By late 2006, a significant number of Liberian refugees, notably in the Kissidougou region, had returned to Liberia. The ICRC carried on trying to trace the families of Liberian and Sierra Leonean children still separated from their families. The emphasis was on finding durable solutions for children whose families had not been located despite years of tracing efforts. With the arrival of its child protection adviser for the sub-region, the ICRC’s capacity to address other child protection issues was enhanced. For instance, former child soldiers received better support in integrating into local communities. The ICRC coordinated its activities with other organizations involved in child protection in the sub-region.

With the closure of refugee camps in the Kissidougou area and the sharp drop in the number of children separated from their families needing family-links services, the ICRC closed its sub-delegation in Kissidougou, transferring responsibility for this region to the delegation in Conakry. In April, the sub-delegation in Kankan was also closed.

Prisoners under the authority of the Justice Ministry and in a number of temporary detention centres continued to receive ICRC visits. Detainees were assisted through several emergency nutritional programmes implemented to alleviate the problem of chronically inadequate food and health care in certain prisons. Following an assessment of its detention programme, the ICRC scaled down its planned prison visits in 2007–08. This was to encourage the national penitentiary authorities to assume their rightful role in bringing prison conditions and the treatment of detainees in line with internationally recognized standards. The ICRC also increased its contacts with local partners working in prisons to help intensify their efforts.

Individuals arrested during demonstrations were visited and closely monitored. However, sustained efforts to obtain access to security detainees not under the authority of the Justice Ministry were fruitless in spite of an agreement signed with the government in 1999 granting the ICRC unfettered access to all detainees.

In light of the improved situation along Guinea’s southern and eastern borders, the ICRC phased out its remaining assistance programmes, with the authorities assuming the running of the newly rehabilitated Yalenzou water treatment plant. The completed renovation significantly increased the water supply to the 300,000 people in N’Zérékoré. The ICRC duly informed the authorities and development agencies of the programme’s conclusion.

The ICRC transferred part of its contingency stock, previously maintained in Kissidougou, while the rest was transferred to N’Zérékoré.

The national authorities, military and security forces, students, the media and traditional and religious leaders remained crucial partners of and audiences for the ICRC in its efforts to promote IHL and the Movement.

The Red Cross Society of Guinea, the International Federation and the ICRC met regularly to coordinate their activities. Continued cooperation between the National Society and the ICRC enabled the former to construct its national headquarters and enhance its operational and emergency response capacities. The ICRC strengthened the National Society’s response capacity by installing a VHF radio network linking the six first-aid posts in Conakry.

**CIVILIANS**

With the situation in the border region calming down, civilians’ main problems were linked to the economy and development. Accordingly, the ICRC no longer planned to monitor the population’s security situation.

The positive political developments in Sierra Leone and Liberia removed the need to identify vulnerable villages in the Guinée Forestière region bordering the two countries. Moreover, since the situation in Guinea and the border region no longer called for relief support to civilians, there...
was no further need for the contingency stocks of essential household supplies pre-positioned in Guinea for 20,000 people. The ICRC therefore transferred 1,000 tarpaulins and 600 kitchen sets to its Dakar regional delegation for its operation in Guinea-Bissau and the Casamance region of Senegal, along with three vehicles.

With political stability taking hold in the sub-region, most refugees were returning home gradually or establishing new communication patterns, thereby reducing their reliance on the tracing and RCM network. Even so, the overall population of about 50,000 refugees still in Guinea continued to depend on the network to stay in touch with their families. Refugees in camps were provided with these services by the ICRC, while the Guinean Red Cross cooperated with the ICRC to ensure that refugees living outside the camps had access to similar services.

The welfare of children affected by conflict remained a focus of ICRC activities. The creation of the new position of regional child protection adviser was in line with the organization’s efforts to streamline its response to the plight of children affected by conflicts in the sub-region and to enhance cooperation with the authorities and other agencies active in this field. The result was that girls and children formerly associated with fighting forces received individual follow-up and counselling.

The ICRC assessed individually the situation of people it had registered, and often approached other organizations better placed to provide them with specialized assistance. This made it possible for refugees being repatriated by the ICRC to receive assistance packages ordinarily reserved for Liberian refugees being transported home by UNHCR.

Coordination with other organizations offering specialized support to refugees was an important aspect of assistance to civilians. The ICRC made a point of being present at the departure of UNHCR repatriation convoys. This enabled 59 potentially vulnerable people who had opted to be repatriated to Liberia and 8 to Sierra Leone to be registered and their well-being monitored by the ICRC after they had arrived in their home countries.

- new tracing requests registered for 13 people (7 females, 7 minors at the time of disappearance);
- 45 people located; 57 people (31 females, 32 minors at the time of disappearance) still being sought
- 42 people reunited with their families, including 35 unaccompanied/separated children and 6 demobilized children reunited with their families mainly in Sierra Leone and Liberia
- 14 unaccompanied/separated children (including 1 demobilized child) registered; 104 cases of such children (including 3 demobilized children) still being handled
- 32 people issued with ICRC travel documents

### Improving access to water and sanitation

With the production capacity of the Yalenu water treatment plant considerably increased once rehabilitation work was completed at the end of 2006, 280,000 inhabitants were assured of a minimum of 5 litres of water per person per day.

Red Cross volunteers received training in the use of emergency water kits, which had the capacity to supply water to 10,000 people for three months in the event of an influx of IDPs or refugees.

In Guinée Forestière, along the border with Côte d’Ivoire, Liberia and Sierra Leone, the water committees, created during previous ICRC rural projects, had started receiving training to improve the management and hygiene of 82 water points. Approximately 72,000 people relied on these water points for their water supply.

### People deprived of their freedom

#### Supporting the authorities in improving detainee treatment and detention conditions

The ICRC continued visits to places of detention under the jurisdiction of the Ministries of Justice and Security to assess inmates’ conditions of detention and treatment. It made oral and written representations to the authorities concerned, notably with regard to the food situation, the treatment of detainees and respect for basic judicial guarantees. It also made repeated calls on the authorities to grant it access to detainees held for reasons of State security.

In September, the Justice Ministry convened a national seminar focusing primarily on detention, a signal of its intention to reform the justice system. The seminar, attended by the judicial and penitentiary authorities from Guinea’s 34 prefectures, made recommendations stressing the need to respect national legislation on arrest, investigation and pre-trial detention. The prevailing poor prison conditions also came up for discussion, and pledges were made to improve them.

Following mid-year assessments of the food situation in 4 of the country’s 34 main prisons carried out with the national prison administration, emergency nutritional programmes were set up and implemented by prison medical officers. An in-depth assessment of malnutrition at the central prison in Conakry was also carried out by the ICRC in June–July on behalf of the authorities. These actions contributed to: identifying the root causes of malnutrition in prisons; a better understanding of the structural and functional causes of the phenomenon and possible solutions, such as facilitating family visits; the running of nutritional programmes; and coordination with other relevant ministries.

The Ministries of Public Health and Justice received material support from the ICRC to organize a three-day seminar aimed at involving all prison medical personnel in: assessing health problems in prisons; drafting their job descriptions; designing basic plans of action concerning the referral system; and setting up an early warning system in prisons. The two ministries continued to receive ICRC support in the drafting of guidelines on medical care in prisons, including reporting tools. This was expected to enhance coordination between the ministries and help motivate prison medical personnel.

The prison administration received a vehicle to help it step up visits to the 34 main prisons in order to monitor conditions there more regularly. The local authorities were given ICRC support for a variety of initiatives, including organizing round-tables on detention to share experiences and promote pragmatic solutions to identified problems.

#### Safeguarding detainee welfare

In all, 16 shelter, water and sanitation projects were implemented in 14 prisons (4,134 detainees) in 2006. The projects mainly involved constructing or repairing kitchens, toilets, septic tanks, cells and roofs and improving water supply by drilling boreholes equipped with hand pumps in three prisons, constructing rainwater collection systems in three prisons and connecting eight prisons to urban water supply networks.
Personal and collective hygiene in prisons improved in regions served by the water and sanitation projects as evidenced by the reduction in the reported incidence of scabies and the absence of cholera outbreaks in prisons in 2006, despite a number of such outbreaks among the general population in urban areas during the year.

- 2,550 detainees visited, 165 monitored individually (4 females, 7 minors), including 44 newly registered ones (1 female, 5 minors), during 103 visits to 38 places of detention under the Ministries of Justice and of Security and the gendarmerie
- 248 RCMs collected from and 147 RCMs distributed to vulnerable detainees
- 178 detainees suffering from severe malnutrition in 6 prisons received food aid
- detainees provided with training in basic hygiene and material assistance (wheelbarrows, buckets, water containers, brooms, plastic mats, blankets, hoes, shovels, gloves, boots, soap, cleaning products and recreational items) by the ICRC together with the authorities and local partners

**WOUNDED AND SICK**

A contingency stock of medical supplies for the treatment and hospitalization of 100 wounded people and the treatment of 500 people with minor wounds was maintained.

The Donka Teaching Hospital received a first-aid kit for the treatment of 50 wounded following the strike in June.

During the demonstrations in Fria, 30 civilians and weapon bearers received first aid from the Guinean Red Cross and the ICRC, which transferred some casualties to medical facilities, mostly the Hôpital Préfectoral, which had received some first-aid material from the ICRC.

**AUTHORITIES**

The Guinean government was assisted in its efforts to incorporate IHL into domestic legislation and ratify IHL treaties through the ICRC’s renewed support for the creation of a national IHL committee.

The national, regional and local authorities, foreign government representatives and UN agencies continued to receive information and briefings on the ICRC’s mandate and activities.

**ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS**

Some 2,350 soldiers, officers and elite troops attended information sessions on IHL and the ICRC’s mandate and activities. The sessions covered topics including ICRC operational needs, notably access to detainees under the authority of the Ministries of Defence and Security.

The army’s IHL Bureau made progress in producing its own *Soldier’s Handbook.*

The Security Ministry conducted sessions on human rights and humanitarian principles for police and security forces. Its IHL and Human Rights Bureau conducted a countrywide campaign to familiarize police officers with IHL and human rights.

- 2 army officers participated in an IHL course in San Remo

**CIVIL SOCIETY**

Hundreds of people countrywide, in particular traditional, religious and community leaders, were familiarized with IHL, the ICRC, its mandate and activities. The media reported widely on ICRC activities in Guinea.

Representatives of academic circles and the ICRC organized the 2nd national IHL moot court competition, attracting 150 participants from Guinea’s 3 main universities. Kankan University integrated IHL into its curriculum.

- 2 university lecturers attended a regional IHL course in Burkina Faso

**RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT**

**Strengthening the National Society’s capacities**

The Guinean Red Cross received substantial technical, material and financial support from the ICRC, its principal partner, to strengthen its capacity to respond to emergencies, restore family links and promote the Fundamental Principles. The National Society also built and inaugurated its national headquarters with ICRC support. The construction of a regional headquarters in Guinée Forestière brought to nine the number of regional headquarters built with ICRC support in conflict-prone areas since 2002.

Throughout the year, the National Society responded efficiently to emergency situations. During the various demonstrations and strikes, it promptly deployed first-aid volunteers to assist wounded civilians, in coordination with State medical services. The public, authorities and armed and security forces all accepted the work of the National Society and the ICRC during the civil unrest and facilitated their access to civilians in need of assistance. The National Society’s contingency plan was updated.

- some 100 people wounded during unrest treated and evacuated to Labé, N’Zérékoré or Conakry
- the Guinean Red Cross’s communication network strengthened through the supply of new radio equipment and the training of 1,040 volunteers in first aid and the Safer Access approach
- the National Society’s president attended the regional tracing conference in November, in Nairobi, Kenya
- 1,033 volunteers supported national tracing activities, including collecting and distributing RCMs, monitoring 46 children separated from their families and actively supporting the ICRC’s tracing poster campaigns
- 188 volunteers trained as trainers in humanitarian values
- activities organized countrywide to mark World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day on 8 May and choose the best first-aid brigades (6 brigades selected)
- 425 primary and secondary school teachers trained in humanitarian values and the Fundamental Principles and 250 parents and pupils attended 2 sessions on the Red Cross and young people as part of the Red Cross youth programme
- National Society staff participated in sessions on IHL/human rights law organized by the ICRC throughout the country for the Islamic League

Guinean Red Cross volunteers reported 361 cases of misuse of the red cross emblem throughout the country. They presented their recommendations to the multisectoral committee whose task was to combat misuse of the emblem. The committee organized seven regional meetings on the issue, funded by the ICRC.
Coordination within the Movement
The International Federation and the ICRC closely coordinated support to the Guinean Red Cross’s organizational development. The focus was on enhancing the National Society’s financial management and familiarizing its staff with its statutes.

The national capacity of the Guinean Red Cross was assessed as part of its strategic development plan for 2007–10, launched by the International Federation with the ICRC’s active involvement.

- 38 local branch leaders attended 4 ICRC-funded workshops on the National Society’s statutes and rules of procedure
- 2 Guinean Red Cross representatives attended the 29th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent
In 2006, the ICRC:

- reunited 114 children, including 22 formerly associated with fighting forces, with their families in Liberia; revisited 258 children reunited with their families, including 19 formerly associated with fighting forces, to identify and address any problems they might face;
- implemented over 70 projects to address the protection and reintegration needs of children reunited with their families;
- collected 15,774 RCMs and distributed 14,038 RCMs;
- completed the distribution of seeds and food to 238,290 people (39,715 families) and the distribution of tools and essential household items to 193,824 people (32,304 families);
- supported 12 health centres and clinics in Lofa and Grand Kru counties and constructed 4 new clinics;
- built or renovated 355 wells and 276 latrines in Lofa and Grand Kru counties and greater Monrovia.

The ICRC has worked in Liberia since 1970 and opened its operational delegation in Monrovia in 1990. Following intense fighting early in 2003 and the subsequent signing of a peace agreement, the ICRC stepped up its operations in Liberia. Since 2005, assistance and protection activities have focused on returnees (former IDPs and refugees) and residents, the wounded and sick, detainees, and children separated from their families. The ICRC supports the Liberian Red Cross Society and runs programmes to promote IHL among armed forces present in Liberia.

**CONTEXT**

Following the peaceful general elections in late 2005, a new parliament was sworn in at the beginning of 2006. President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf appointed a new cabinet selected from a broad political spectrum. The new government enjoyed substantial support in Liberia and from the international community.

The government turned its attention to the many pressing needs of the population, such as the lack of basic services in Monrovia. It drafted an Interim Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper and initiated reform of the public administration. Enormous challenges nonetheless lay ahead: the public administration barely functioned and lacked qualified Liberian personnel to restore it and provide public services. International advisers were deployed in key government sectors to help implement the Governance and Economic Management Assistance Programme, drawn up in 2005 by the International Contact Group for Liberia, primarily to fight corruption.

Some progress was made during the government’s first year in office. The lifting of international sanctions on timber was expected to contribute to the country’s economic recovery. The creation of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission gave the country an opportunity to come to terms with its recent past.

To consolidate Liberia’s new-found stability, the UN maintained its 15,000-strong Mission in Liberia (UNMIL). UNMIL’s continued presence was deemed necessary given that the fledgling national armed and security forces were not yet ready to assume their full duties.

The successful election process and the growing stability fuelled the steady return of IDPs to their areas of origin. This in turn paved the way for the official closure of the remaining IDP camps in May. Concurrently, Liberian refugees in neighbouring countries began returning home in greater numbers.

The influx of returnees in largely undeveloped rural communities put enormous strain on what was left of inadequate infrastructure and resources. The return also exacerbated ethnic tensions in certain areas, mainly over property. The dilapidated road network hindered the population’s access to markets, schools and health care. Despite the international community’s efforts, only a limited number of programmes were under way to rehabilitate former fighters and reintegrate them into their communities. Some former fighters continued to occupy and exploit regions rich in natural resources. Poverty and unemployment remained a serious problem for many Liberians and led to a rise in criminality in densely populated areas. This phenomenon highlighted the potential for former fighters to succumb to recruitment by armed groups in neighbouring countries.
More than two years after the end of the conflict, a number of people remained separated from their families. As the bulk of refugees and IDPs had returned home and a large number of lone children had been reunited with their families, it became increasingly unlikely that the families of the remaining children would be located, despite intensive tracing efforts. The ICRC therefore began to seek durable solutions for these children. For children who had encountered problems reintegrating into their families and communities, the ICRC developed a combination of protection and assistance programmes.

Another ICRC priority was to assist returnees in reviving their livelihoods. Although some had already made significant progress in this respect over the past year, the majority of those who had just returned to their places of origin still depended on international aid. The ICRC therefore distributed seeds, tools, food and essential household items to the communities hardest hit to help them rebuild their livelihoods. Special attention was paid to vulnerable families, especially those headed by an elderly person or a widow. The ICRC enlisted the support of their communities to help them reconstruct their homes, providing compensation in the form of food or cash for work. By the end of 2006, the ICRC had concluded its distribution of tools and seeds to 40,000 families and its shelter programme for vulnerable families.

In Lofa and Grand Kru counties, the ICRC’s focus was on medium-term integrated assistance programmes, combining support to health facilities and the promotion of basic health and hygiene practices. Wells and latrines were built or renovated and income-generating agricultural projects developed. Local communities were increasingly encouraged to participate in rehabilitation projects. The aim was to foster a strong sense of community ownership, particularly of water and sanitation facilities, deemed crucial to the projects’ sustainability.

The ICRC also concentrated on familiarizing Liberia’s newly elected and appointed authorities with its operations in the country. Preliminary discussions focused on the promotion and implementation of IHL.

The formation of the new armed forces provided an opportunity for the ICRC to press for the inclusion of IHL in the training of all new military personnel.

With the shift from emergency response to structural development under way, the ICRC supported the Liberian Red Cross in adapting its programmes.

**ICRC ACTION**

**CIVILIANS**

Protection and restoration of family links

The ICRC continued to monitor and identify the protection needs of the civilian population. The focus was on protection issues concerning people particularly affected by the past conflict, especially children separated from their families and women.

Instances of armed violence, primarily of a criminal nature, were reported. So, too, were allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse and other human rights violations. Concerns lingered over the rise in ethnic tensions fuelled by property disputes involving returnees and over the risk of children being recruited to fight in neighbouring countries. The absence of a functioning judicial system created an environment of impunity, exacerbating the situation.

Fewer than 250 Liberian children remained separated from their families by past conflict. Many of the children registered by the ICRC were in refugee camps in neighbouring countries, and most had been put in contact with relatives. With the progressive closure of the camps, it became increasingly necessary to find durable solutions for children whose families could not be located. Moreover, some children who had been reunited with their families faced problems reintegrating into family and community life. Following up these children enabled the ICRC to respond to such problems through mediation, referral to appropriate services.

**MAIN FIGURES AND INDICATORS**

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**DOCUMENTS ISSUED**

People to whom travel documents were issued 10
and tailor-made projects. With IDPs and refugees returning home and with communications improving in Liberia, the need for the RCM service declined. The ICRC and the Liberian Red Cross therefore adapted the service to meet remaining needs and developed a plan to strengthen the National Society’s tracing capacity:

- 11,368 RCMs collected from and 9,703 RCMS distributed by the ICRC and the Liberian Red Cross to civilians, including 104 from and 95 to children separated from their families
- new tracing requests opened for 22 people (11 females, 18 minors at the time of disappearance); 21 people located; 128 people (73 females, 92 minors at the time of disappearance) still being sought
- 33 people reunited with their families, including 19 unaccompanied/separated children and 12 demobilized children
- 9 unaccompanied/separated children (4 demobilized children) registered; 84 cases (including 44 concerning demobilized children) still being processed
- 10 people issued with ICRC travel documents

Children reunited with their families were supported by means of over 70 ongoing projects, including 8 micro-economic projects and 6 apprenticeships. Five children were referred to other child-protection agencies and three to medical institutions. In addition, 35 children received support to attend school and 6 received direct material assistance.

**Assistance to civilians**

The official closure of all IDP camps and the accelerated return of refugees from neighbouring countries overstretched the limited resources and rundown infrastructure of communities absorbing returnees. A growing number of humanitarian organizations provided relief to these communities, but mainly in areas that were relatively easy to reach. Few water supply systems and sanitation and health facilities had been constructed or renovated. The shortage of qualified Liberian personnel adversely affected the quality of health services provided. Although most schools had reopened, many poor families could not afford to enrol all their children.

**Water and habitat**

Some 150,000 people had access to safe water thanks to the ongoing construction or rehabilitation of 355 wells in rural and semi-urban areas in Montserrado (including Monrovia), Lofa and Grand Kru counties.

Furthermore, 70,000 people benefited from improved hygiene conditions as a result of the ongoing construction of institutional, communal or family latrines.

Local communities were encouraged to assume ownership of water supply and sanitation facilities constructed or renovated in their villages. One way of doing this was to create committees comprising community members to oversee the use and maintenance of the new facilities. A number of community members were trained in the management of wells and latrines, including cost recovery, and the operation, maintenance and repair of pumps. In addition, community workers were trained in raising public awareness of proper hygiene practices and then went on to conduct information sessions for members of the community.

- 220,000 people benefited from ongoing water and sanitation projects

**Health**

In Lofa County, support to the primary health care service was extended to Kolahun district. The opening of three newly built facilities increased the number of ICRC-supported structures in Lofa County to seven. Construction work at one additional facility progressed. Voinjama health centre remained the largest health facility in Lofa and a referral centre for all medical cases. Two laboratories were built and equipped and provided with consumables, staff training and periodic supervision. Patients were also referred to secondary health care facilities in Phebe or Monrovia.

In Grand Kru County, five health facilities were supported and one built. In addition, two laboratories were built and supported. Patients were also referred to secondary health care facilities in Harper and Monrovia. In the 12 centres supported (catchment population: 1,368,770 people):

- 137,530 consultations (12,764 ante/postnatal, 124,766 curative, including 72,757 to women) were given;
- 25,675 vaccination doses were administered (5,647 to children under 5);
- around 200 staff were working at ICRC-supported facilities received monthly incentives.

Support in the health sector also included training and information sessions on health issues.

- health staff in Lofa and Grand Kru participated in training and refresher courses organized by or with the ICRC
- 125 traditional midwives trained by the ICRC in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare;
- 124 traditional midwives attended refresher courses
- staff of the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare supported to attend training sessions organized by other partners or the ministry
- 17 officers in charge of health facilities attended a workshop on health in Grand Kru
- 10 laboratory technicians/assistants given on-the-job training, 1 of whom attended a workshop organized by the Mother Pattern College in Monrovia
- 222 community health educators working in ICRC-supported facilities attended health promotion courses
- 1,070 mosquito nets distributed during awareness sessions on malaria to communities in Lofa and Grand Kru, mainly to children under 5 and pregnant women

**Economic security**

While the situation of populations in accessible regions had improved with the support of humanitarian organizations, communities in remote areas still faced considerable hardships. Nevertheless, hundreds of thousands of Liberians managed to harvest a decent rice crop for the first time in years thanks to favourable climatic conditions and a massive ICRC relief effort. Vulnerable communities received substantial amounts of seeds and tools from the ICRC, making it the biggest provider of seeds and farming implements in the country. An increasing number of other actors began conducting similar activities in the same geographical areas, notably in Lofa County. Accordingly, the ICRC’s distribution of seeds to 238,290 people (39,715 households) and tools to 193,824 people (32,304 households) was concluded in 2006.
Fields and plantations had become overgrown during years of disuse. Farmers in Lofa received ICRC support in clearing their coffee, cocoa and pineapple plantations as part of a food-for-work project to revive cash-crop farming. The cleared land was expected to become productive again by the beginning of 2007.

Vulnerable families that had recently returned to their places of origin were given essential household items, such as blankets, kitchen sets and soap, and occupied shelters built as part of a food-for-work project. Using traditional materials, villagers were supported in constructing shelters for 90,972 vulnerable members of their communities (15,162 households), such as widows and the elderly. This programme was completed in 2006.

The ICRC continued to assess the particular needs of conflict-affected children and women and implemented a micro-economic project in an area of Grand Gedeh hard-hit by the conflict. A group of women received support that included turning 1.5 hectares of swamp into irrigated rice fields and the installation of a mill to encourage cassava production. The project was instrumental in reviving social networks, community dialogue and support mechanisms for the most vulnerable. By working together, the women were better able to rebuild the social and economic fabric of their communities. A women’s association was supported in establishing a tailoring training programme for people affected by conflict and for otherwise vulnerable women. By the end of the year, women were learning new skills, as well as gaining social and psychological benefits from the project, helping them recover from the trauma of conflict and giving them an alternative to life on the streets. In total, 1,170 people (195 households) benefited from micro-economic initiatives.

- 388,338 people (64,723 households) received food; these included 156,048 people (26,008 households) who received food in compensation for work and 232,290 people (38,715 households) who received food to prevent consumption of seeds
- 524,256 people (87,376 households) benefited from agricultural and micro-economic support
- 214,596 people (35,766 households) received essential household items

**PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM**

Lack of infrastructure in places of detention remained a concern. Reform of the judicial system moved at a very slow pace and faced serious impediments, including lack of resources. Progress included the setting up of new circuit and magistrates’ courts and the training of judicial authorities (including judges, police and correctional officers). The rehabilitation of prisons and police jails, managed by the UN, got under way.

The ICRC continued to have access to all detainees in all places of detention and took up with the authorities its findings on the treatment of inmates and their conditions of detention. This dialogue produced noticeable improvements in detention conditions in some cases.

- 889 detainees visited, 2 of them monitored individually, during 76 visits to 23 prisons
- 87 RCMs collected from and 26 RCMs distributed to detainees

**AUTHORITIES**

While some of the newly elected and appointed government officials were familiar with the ICRC, most were not. For its part, the international community present in Liberia knew and respected the organization. Efforts therefore concentrated on re-establishing contact with key national authorities, while keeping up the dialogue with the international authorities.

- regular coordination meetings with and briefings on the ICRC held for representatives of the government, UNMIL, the UN, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and NGOs
- regular contact maintained with key authorities including the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Defence, Justice and Health
- officials from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission attended 2 sessions on IHL and the ICRC
- 174 local authorities in 6 counties attended 15 sessions on IHL and the ICRC
- 2 representatives of the Ministries of Justice and Foreign Affairs attended a joint ICRC/ECOWAS IHL seminar

Detainees received hygiene items and other basic necessities on an ad hoc basis. Three courts trying detainees visited by the ICRC received office equipment and supplies to help them process their cases. Meanwhile, the UN and the ICRC coordinated efforts concerning ICRC assistance to detainees and the UN’s planning of rehabilitation projects in prisons, particularly with respect to water and sanitation.

- 500 detainees benefited from improved access to water
ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

Basic IHL training for the first batch of newly recruited members of the armed forces got under way in October 2006. The training covered topics such as IHL, the Red Cross, its activities and working methods, and the emblem.

- 106 army recruits attended IHL training sessions
- meetings regularly held with the Ministry of Defence, DynCorp (security sector reform officials), the military training commandant and instructors

The creation and training of the new police force progressed well. By the end of 2006, over 1,800 staff, the figure initially targeted for training, had been trained by UNMIL and the UN Civilian Police (CIVPOL). The police recruits were also familiarized with the ICRC’s mandate and activities.

- 685 police recruits and correctional staff attended 23 information sessions; meetings held regularly with UNMIL’s police training hierarchy and CIVPOL instructors
- dialogue maintained with the UNMIL military hierarchy and troops in the zones where the ICRC was operational
- 290 UN military observers and UNMIL officers attended 14 sessions on the ICRC and the UN Secretary-General’s Bulletin on observance of IHL by UN forces
- Ethiopian, Pakistani, Chinese and Senegalese UNMIL battalions attended 6 IHL sessions in Lofa, Maryland, Grand-Gedeh and River Gee counties

RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT

The Liberian Red Cross continued to receive support from the ICRC in enhancing its operational capacity and in reviewing its statutes. It reorganized its management structure at headquarters and chapter level to optimize operations. The Nimba chapter held its assembly in January and elected a seven-member board. The Liberian Red Cross assumed greater responsibility for managing and assessing its tracing network and adapting it to the evolving situation in Liberia.

- 20 Liberian Red Cross staff attended 2 workshops on governance organized by the National Society with the International Federation and the ICRC; the Liberian Red Cross participated in the National Society Leadership workshop in Geneva, Switzerland
- 35 senior Liberian Red Cross staff attended a working session to discuss the National Society’s organizational development priorities and the strengthening of relations between chapters and headquarters
- 36 tracing officers attended a working session to assess the National Society’s tracing networks leading to the streamlining of the tracing network, merging three units (tracing, dissemination and youth) into one called humanitarian values
- 15 newly recruited humanitarian values officers attended training in tracing, communication and various Movement policies
- the National Society participated in ICRC tracing activities and efforts to improve civilians’ economic security (see Civilians)
- 450 wells assessed by the National Society for contamination and 42 chlorinated; 13 committees organized to promote community ownership of water facilities
- 55 new volunteers, 1,920 community members and 347 Firestone staff, teachers and WFP employees attended first-aid training and refresher courses offered by the Liberian Red Cross; production of the National Society first-aid training manual progressed
- 1,913 people and 12 media organizations participated in information sessions/briefings on IHL and the Movement; celebrations organized to mark World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day (8 May)
- 2 Red Cross drama clubs created in high schools; 69 Red Cross school clubs with 2,607 members received 1,110 copies of the comic “Battle of the villages”; 105 young people from the 15 counties participated in a week-long youth camp organized by the National Society
- with ICRC support, a chapter office built in Nimba and a youth centre in Gbanga and a chapter office in Grand Kru renovated; construction of a chapter office in Lofa interrupted for legal reasons

CIVIL SOCIETY

The ICRC was relatively well known among key civil society figures for its action in response to the years of conflict. Relations were maintained with the local and international media, which reported on some ICRC activities, such as protection, tracing and assistance.

The ICRC video “Liberia: Hope at last”, covering the organization’s activities in post-conflict Liberia, was completed and launched in four counties, where it was seen by 1,800 people.
The ICRC opened a delegation in Rwanda in 1990. It focuses on visiting the tens of thousands of detainees held in central prisons. It also regularly visits people held in places of temporary detention such as police stations and military facilities. It helps to reunite children with the families from whom they became separated during the exodus of 1994 or during the mass repatriations in 1996–97. The ICRC works with the authorities to incorporate IHL into domestic legislation and into school and university curricula. It also supports the development of the Rwandan Red Cross.

**KEY POINTS**

In 2006, the ICRC:
- visited more than 83,700 detainees during 293 visits to 110 places of detention, including the country’s 16 central prisons and police stations and military detention facilities;
- repatriated unaccompanied children to Rwanda, mostly from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and reunited 45 children with their families;
- collected nearly 4,000 RCMs from and delivered more than 6,000 RCMs to people separated from their families, in cooperation with the National Society;
- completed water supply projects for 58,200 people in 1 urban and 3 rural areas and initiated 6 new projects;
- provided logistic support to help the National Society distribute food aid to people in drought-stricken regions, assist returnees from the United Republic of Tanzania and respond to a cholera epidemic;
- provided technical information to the authorities on the ratification process for the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons.

**CONTEXT**

Trials of genocide suspects by traditional *gacaca* courts started nationwide in July, leading to a steady flow of sentenced individuals into the prisons. According to official figures, more than 760,000 cases had been documented by the end of October 2006. All suspects were scheduled to have stood trial by the end of 2007. A new law to overhaul the prison system was promulgated at the end of the year.

The disarmament and repatriation of members of the Democratic Liberation Forces of Rwanda, an armed group based in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), progressed only haltingly.

Some regions of Rwanda felt the effects of the drought in East Africa, but belated rains nevertheless contributed to a satisfactory June harvest. However, by the end of the year food security in several areas of the country was fragile.

Rwanda reorganized its administrative structure, reducing its 12 provinces to 4 regions plus the capital Kigali and the number of districts from 120 to 30. New regional and district authorities took up their functions.
The maintenance of prison infrastructure. By the end of 2005, the ICRC concentrated on providing direct assistance to prisons, so that they could prepare their 2007 budgets accordingly.

Detainees continued to receive visits from delegations, who monitored their conditions of detention. Where necessary, recommendations for improvements were made to the authorities as part of an ongoing confidential dialogue. As the authorities had assumed responsibility for food supply in prisons at the time, the ICRC’s response to this situation was to provide direct support in crucial sectors such as health and hygiene, water and sanitation and the maintenance of prison infrastructure.

With the nationwide gacaca trials under way, the prison population increased by 24% during the second half of the year, reaching more than 87,000 inmates, including some 17,000 common criminals, by the end of the year. Systematic assessments of detainees’ nutritional status and accommodation were carried out and the results shared with the authorities.

Eighty-one peer educators in Kigali’s central prison were trained by the ICRC to help in the implementation of the national plan to tackle HIV/AIDS in prisons drafted with the active participation of the delegation. Some 58,200 people in Gihogwe, Kabarondo, Karaba and Nyanza gained improved access to water with the completion of projects in their communities. A further six projects were initiated.

The ICRC, in cooperation with the Rwandan Red Cross, made the RCM service available to enable separated family members to restore or maintain contact. Where children had been separated from their families, the ICRC helped to trace their relatives, reunite them where appropriate and monitor and support their reintegration. For children still waiting to be reunited with their families, it supported centres looking after them.

The Rwandan Defence Force continued to receive support from the ICRC in its efforts to integrate IHL into military doctrine, training and operations. The delegation also carried out activities to raise awareness of issues relating to IHL among the media, higher-education establishments and the general public.

Drought-affected populations and people of Rwandan origin who had been expelled by the United Republic of Tanzania were both assisted by the National Society, with logistic and other support from the ICRC and the International Federation.

People separated from their relatives were able to restore or maintain contact through the tracing and RCM services provided by the ICRC and the Rwandan Red Cross. Where appropriate, children were repatriated to Rwanda, mostly from the DRC, and reunited with their families. Some of their families were found through bulletins given by the ICRC to local radio stations to broadcast.

Children waiting to be reunited with their families were looked after in 22 ICRC-supported centres. A total of 123 children who had been reunited with their families received visits from ICRC staff to see how they were settling back into society. Twenty-six families with social and economic problems received support from local authorities and associations which the ICRC had mobilized.

> 3,739 RCMs collected and 6,071 RCMs distributed, including 78 from and 96 to unaccompanied/separated children
> new tracing requests registered for 108 people (47 females, 57 minors at the time of disappearance); 52 people located; 72 cases (45 females, 44 minors at the time of disappearance) still being processed

### MAIN FIGURES AND INDICATORS

#### PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses)
- Detainees visited: 84,765
- Detainees visited and monitored individually: 478
- Number of visits carried out: 293
- Number of places of detention visited: 110

#### RESTORING FAMILY LINKS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>RCMs collected</td>
<td>3,930</td>
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<tr>
<td>RCMs distributed</td>
<td>6,220</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>People reunited with their families</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tracing requests, including cases of missing persons</td>
<td>108</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>People for whom a tracing request was newly registered</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tracing requests closed positively (persons located)</td>
<td>72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unaccompanied minors (UAMs) and separated children (SCs), including unaccompanied demobilized child soldiers</td>
<td>91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UAMs/SCs reunited with their families by the ICRC</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UAMs/SCs cases still being handled at 31 December 2006</td>
<td>562</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### DOCUMENTS ISSUED
- People to whom a detention attestation was issued: 10

### ICRC ACTION

Following Rwanda’s extensive administrative reorganization, the ICRC delegation contacted all new district authorities in charge of budgets and supplies for central prisons to brief them on the situation in each prison and the ICRC’s response. The relevant authorities at central and local level were informed mid-year of the ICRC’s plans to further decrease direct assistance to prisons, so that they could prepare their 2007 budgets accordingly.

Detainees continued to receive visits from delegations, who monitored their conditions of detention. Where necessary, recommendations for improvements were made to the authorities as part of an ongoing confidential dialogue. As the authorities had assumed responsibility for food supply in prisons at the time, the ICRC’s response was to provide direct support in crucial sectors such as health and hygiene, water and sanitation and the maintenance of prison infrastructure.

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Newly imprisoned detainees were given the opportunity to make contact with their relatives through the ICRC, which insisted on their strict separation from adults. To this end, it constructed separate cellblocks for them in three central prisons, in collaboration with the Rwandan authorities.

84,765 detainees visited, 478 of them monitored individually (44 females, 14 minors), including 346 newly registered (36 females, 12 minors), during 293 visits to 110 places of detention

191 RCMs collected from and 149 RCMs distributed to detainees

10 detention certificates issued to former detainees or their families

In Kabarondo, Karaba and Nyanza, 37,000 people gained a better water supply with the completion of three projects. In the final stage of the projects, with guidance and support from the ICRC, local authorities and communities learned how to manage the distribution network.

In Gihogwe, on the outskirts of Kigali, 21,200 people had improved access to water when work on the Gihogwe water supply system was completed by the State-run Electrogaz Company and the ICRC.

Early in the year, 30,000 residents of areas of Kigali suffering from an outbreak of cholera were assured of a safe supply of water by the National Society and the ICRC, with the latter providing water trucking, bladder tanks and jerrycans, thus helping to contain the epidemic within a few weeks.

Six new projects (in Gasasa, Kabarondo, Kabaya, Kigarama, Mbari and Ndiza) were initiated to improve access to water for 68,850 people. Each project included support to and training of local authorities to ensure proper management of water production and distribution.

Inhabitants of regions stricken by drought, and Rwandan nationals expelled from the United Republic of Tanzania benefited from relief programmes run by the National Society with ad hoc support from the ICRC (see Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement).

People deprived of their freedom

Detainees in civilian prisons, police stations and places under the authority of the military received regular visits from ICRC delegates, who checked on their treatment, living conditions, nutritional status, health and access to medical care and conveyed the findings confidentially to the authorities.

To maintain hygiene standards, prisons regularly received chlorine, liquid soap, soap bars and hygiene products for women. The delegation also monitored cleaning and hygiene programmes. Pest control campaigns were conducted in seven prisons.

Detainees in 8 prisons received materials and equipment to grow food

87,067 detainees provided with hygiene items

461 minors in prisons provided with school supplies

Health, hygiene and living conditions

Detainee health care in 12 prisons was supported through the ICRC’s continued provision of 50% of the required essential medicines. Recommendations for improving the quality of prison health services were made by delegates during visits.

An analysis of prison data showed HIV/AIDS to be the main cause of death among detainees. In January, the authorities launched a national prevention and integrated response plan to fight HIV/AIDS, as well as other health threats, in prisons. The plan had been drafted by a steering committee comprising various organizations, including the ICRC. Under the plan, 62 detainees and 19 administrative personnel of Kigali’s central prison were trained as peer educators by the ICRC.

Inmates’ nutritional status was checked on 27 different occasions by measuring their body mass index. The results were shared with the authorities, so that they could improve the situation where necessary.

Prisons were encouraged to create vegetable gardens to improve the diet of sick detainees. To stimulate agricultural production, they received technical support, seeds, tools and fertilizer.

In seven places of detention, 56,034 inmates experienced improved living conditions as a result of upgraded kitchen or latrine facilities or other small-scale projects. In five prisons, 21,302 detainees were set to benefit from improved sanitation facilities as a result of ongoing projects to construct biogas systems (waste-water management combined with energy production), carried out by the ICRC in conjunction with the authorities.

Various State bodies concerned with the implementation of IHL, including the Defence and Justice Ministries and specialized parliamentary committees, received information, advice or legal support from the ICRC.

The reorganization of the Foreign Ministry early in the year slowed down the consultation process regarding the ratification of the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons. Nevertheless, at the end of the year the Ministry of Foreign Affairs informed the ICRC that it had started consultations with the Ministry of Defence regarding ratification of the Convention. The delegation assisted by providing technical information on the contents of the Convention.

Discussions on the revision of the law on the red cross emblem continued between the Ministry of Health, the Rwandan Red Cross and the ICRC. The National Society was provided with model laws to pass on to the Ministry of Health.

Authorities

Armed forces and other bearers of weapons

The Rwandan Defence Force was assisted by the ICRC in its efforts to integrate IHL into military procedures and training. Cooperation continued with the bimonthly army publication Ingabo Magazine, which featured articles on IHL and the ICRC in every other issue.

The training department of the Rwanda National Police received copies of a Kinyarwanda version of the ICRC booklet, To serve and to protect.
100 Rwandan officers and 1,000 troops assigned to peacekeeping duties in Darfur, Sudan, attended 7 information sessions on IHL and the ICRC.

300 Darfur-bound police officers attended similar information sessions.

30 instructors trained in IHL and assigned to the country’s military training institutions and several services within the Ministry of Defence.

438 new agents of the National Prison Service attended an information session on the objectives and standard procedures of the ICRC’s work in places of detention.

CIVIL SOCIETY

The media was kept abreast of the ICRC’s activities and IHL-related issues, such as the protection of women in armed conflict and the situation in Darfur, through regular contact with the delegation.

Some media, at their own initiative, reported on the entry into force of Protocol V to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons on explosive remnants of war, indicating a growing awareness of the issue.

The delegation continued to support various associations and local NGOs interested in IHL.

IHL in schools

The preparation and revision of programmes and textbooks containing chapters on human rights and IHL, to be used in civic education classes, fell behind schedule because of administrative reforms earlier in the year.

IHL in universities

A law professor from Kigali Free University was sponsored to attend the regional IHL course for French-speaking countries held in Burkina Faso as part of the ICRC’s support to law lecturers teaching IHL.

Students engaged in research on IHL-related topics obtained appropriate documentation and advice; a team from the National University in Butare attended an international IHL moot court competition in Arusha, in the United Republic of Tanzania (see Nairobi).

In light of the high turnover of IHL lecturers and the increasing involvement of visiting lecturers, higher education institutions and the ICRC discussed ways to ensure that IHL courses were not disrupted.

RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT

Cooperation between the Rwandan Red Cross and the ICRC continued. This included ICRC support to ensure the sustainability of the National Society’s programmes to restore family links, promote IHL and the Fundamental Principles and bolster its emergency preparedness and response.

Certain National Society activities benefited from ad hoc ICRC support:

- 20,000 families in drought-stricken regions received 1,500 tonnes of food from the government, which the National Society distributed with ICRC logistic support;
- Rwandan nationals expelled from the United Republic of Tanzania were assisted by the National Society in the Kirehe transit camp; the ICRC contributed 9 bladder tanks, 2,000 jerrycans, 3,000 blankets, 1,000 kitchen sets and 2 tents.

The National Society’s emergency stocks were replenished thanks, in part, to contributions from the ICRC.

As part of a countrywide training programme put in place in 2002, 265 volunteers were trained in the provision of the RCM service. This programme culminated in the Rwandan Red Cross assuming full responsibility for the service to the civilian population at the end of 2006.
In 2006, the ICRC:
- continued visits to detainees, including to those held by the Special Court for Sierra Leone; completed an assessment of the prison system and organized round-tables on health, water and sanitation in detention;
- carried on trying to resolve the remaining caseload of children separated from their families, notably Liberian children still in Sierra Leone; continued helping the National Society restructure and improve its tracing service;
- completed a study on the situation of the families of missing persons;
- continued promoting IHL and humanitarian principles within the armed and police forces; distributed to each soldier a copy of the new Code of conduct for combatants developed in tandem with the military;
- organized the 2nd IHL moot court competition for university students; briefed over 1,350 students and journalists on IHL and ICRC activities;
- cooperated with the National Society in supporting children affected by the war, in organizing its national youth camp and in promoting IHL.

The ICRC has maintained a presence in Sierra Leone since 1991. Since the end of the war, the organization has adapted its operations in the country. Its protection priorities remain ensuring the welfare of Sierra Leonean and Liberian children separated from their families and monitoring the conditions of detention of detainees. The ICRC provides the authorities with substantial technical support in promoting respect for IHL and its integration into national legislation.

On the political scene, there was growing concern over the forthcoming general elections, set for 28 July 2007, for which the incumbent President Ahmad Tejan Kabbah would not be running. The year saw the ruling Sierra Leone People’s Party lose some of its support base to a breakaway faction. Disillusionment mounted over the poor economic situation and a post-war environment characterized by unrest among youth and lack of access to basic services and commodities. Corruption and mismanagement of public resources, together with the government’s failure to tackle poverty and high unemployment, were held largely responsible for the grim state of affairs. Symptoms of the frustration included student riots, which, although contained, posed a genuine threat to the country’s security and stability, particularly in the run-up to the elections.

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Macro-economic performance stayed positive, yet inadequate to sustain development. Sierra Leone’s traditional donors remained critical of the government’s lack of commitment to carrying out reforms, reducing poverty, implementing agreed programmes and fighting corruption, and threatened to suspend pledged support.

Former Liberian president Charles Taylor was extradited from exile in Nigeria, handed over to the Special Court for Sierra Leone to face charges of crimes against humanity committed during the Sierra Leonean civil war, and transferred to The Hague for trial. The Special Court completed two trials involving members of the former Civil Defence Force and Armed Forces Revolutionary Council, the verdicts of which were expected in 2007. The Special Court also made progress in the trial of Revolutionary United Front (RUF) members. Verdicts were pronounced in the trials by national courts of detainees held by the government in relation to the conflict.
**ICRC ACTION**

Having wound up its last relief programme in Sierra Leone in late 2005, the ICRC moved further from remedial to preventive activities in 2006. Building on years of experience monitoring detainees in Sierra Leone’s prisons, it kept up support to reforms in the penal and judicial systems.

The ICRC continued monitoring conditions of detention in all prisons, including of persons in the custody of the Special Court. Going beyond monitoring, it completed an in-depth assessment of the penal system, and engaged in talks with the Ministry of Internal Affairs and other ministries on reform of the penal administration. It further pursued dialogue with the ministry and other actors involved in the reform process to ensure optimal use of the assessment’s findings and recommendations. In addition, it worked on building the authorities’ capacity to tackle issues of health, water and sanitation in places of detention.

Resolving residual tracing cases involving mostly Sierra Leonean and Liberian children separated from their families remained a priority. With other actors cutting back their activities in this field, the ICRC remained the only organization working countrywide and across borders. It also assessed the needs of families of people who went missing during the conflict. It started working with national structures to introduce measures to tackle the phenomenon of missing persons and to bring to the fore the difficulties faced by families left in a limbo of uncertainty over the fate of missing loved ones.

The armed forces of Sierra Leone, which had benefited from the support of the UK-led International Military Advisory and Training Team and the ICRC over the past few years, had attained a high degree of autonomy in integrating IHL into their training and operating procedures. The ICRC continued to provide them with technical and material support. Its offer to provide similar assistance to the police force was favourably received.

Past efforts to promote IHL among key sectors of society paid off. All the country’s universities and colleges expressed a keen interest in integrating the subject into their curricula. In addition, the ICRC facilitated contacts among people in Sierra Leone interested in or knowledgeable about IHL and helped to create links between different ministries and within civil society, ultimately leading to an initiative to create a national IHL committee.

With the number of people directly affected by the conflict steadily declining, the ICRC concentrated on addressing their needs by strengthening the National Society’s capacity to handle issues likely to remain relevant in the long term. The ICRC, the International Federation and partner National Societies worked together to enhance the development and capacity of the Sierra Leone Red Cross Society. For its part, the ICRC focused on supporting selected assistance programmes and the National Society’s tracing services and on building its communication capacity. Although progress in enhancing its capacity was slow, this partnership prompted the National Society to initiate overdue internal reforms.

In late October, in light of the successful conclusion of its emergency programmes in recent years, the ICRC closed its sub-delegation in Kenema, reducing its staff and set-up in the country by 30%. The delegation in Freetown maintained coverage of the organization’s activities countrywide.

**CIVILIANS**

**Restoring family links**

The ICRC pressed ahead with implementation of the recommendations of the 2004 external evaluation of the tracing programme for unaccompanied children in West Africa. It widened the scope and effectiveness of its child-protection activities by focusing on better follow-up before and after reunification and on the specific economic and protection needs of children and their families and by seeking alternatives to family reunification for children whose families had not been located despite years of searching. Staff received training...
to enhance their handling of intricate protection issues, particularly those affecting girls and children formerly associated with fighting forces.

Good cooperation was established with the Ministry of Social Welfare, Gender and Children’s Affairs and with international and national agencies assisting children separated from their families in Sierra Leone. Greater emphasis was placed on increased information-sharing and on the complementary roles of the ICRC and other actors involved in protecting and assisting the children. This enabled appropriate and tailor-made solutions to be found to suit each child.

Following the successful general elections in Liberia in late 2005 and the improved security environment there, Liberian refugees returned home in increasing numbers. A total of 11,269 refugees were repatriated with UNHCR’s assistance, while others returned on their own to Liberia. Identification of children separated from their families and of other vulnerable people transported in UNHCR convoys made it possible for the ICRC to monitor them after their arrival in Liberia.

At the end of 2006, some 23,000 Liberian refugees remained in camps and an estimated 3,000 in urban centres in Sierra Leone. Cash incentives to leave and drops in assistance accelerated the return process. The economic gap created by the reduction in assistance left some refugees, especially young girls whose carers had headed home, exposed to abuse. Girls in such circumstances were singled out for special attention by the ICRC.

Relying on its past experience in dealing with the large numbers of children separated from their families by conflict in the region, the ICRC worked closely with other organizations and the government to address the cases of children whose families could not be traced even after years of searching. Durable alternatives to family reunification, such as repatriation to their area of origin for older children and foster care for the younger ones, were proposed. To enable the children to make informed decisions, profiles of vulnerable cases were drawn up and existing community structures and available services mapped out.

Over two years after the end of organized voluntary returns, 43 unaccompanied Sierra Leonean children and vulnerable adults remained in Guinea. Most were able to re-establish contact with their families in Sierra Leone as a result of lengthy and arduous tracing efforts. For the 28 families still without contact, the Sierra Leonean Red Cross and the ICRC adopted a variety of methods to trace their relatives, including a poster campaign throughout the sub-region, distribution of booklets with photographs, radio programmes highlighting the issue and broadcasting names, and community involvement.

On verification, the majority of the 88 identifications of children in photo-tracing posters proved false. The families concerned were asked to submit tracing requests, if they so wished.

Unaccompanied children and vulnerable adult refugees continued to rely on RCMs to exchange news with family members, although alternative means of communication gradually took over. The number of children transferred to and reunited with their families in Sierra Leone under the auspices of the ICRC dropped slightly, primarily because of the overall decline in tracing cases. After reunification, the children received ICRC visits and some assistance, mostly school materials, to help them reintegrate into their communities. They were referred to other organizations for follow-up where necessary. Children with acute medical problems or about whom there were protection concerns were given particular attention. Most of the problems encountered, such as lack of funds for school fees or for vocational training, affected the population in general and were not restricted to returnees.

The ICRC shared the findings of its study with the authorities and other stakeholders and sought to raise community awareness of the issue. A dialogue with the government was initiated with a view to setting up the necessary systems and procedures to address the issue in the event of it arising again in the future.

**Missing persons**

Resolving the cases of people missing in relation to the conflict in Sierra Leone became increasingly unlikely. The ICRC therefore decided to conduct a study on how their families were coping. The study highlighted the plight of households headed by women whose missing relatives had been the breadwinners. There was a general lack of awareness of the particular situation of relatives of missing persons. This factor, coupled with the absence of public services and of a specific capacity to deal with the issue of missing persons, meant that the economic, social, legal and psychological needs of relatives of missing persons remained unmet. Outside the armed forces, there was scant information on missing persons, and no mechanisms were in place to prevent the phenomenon from occurring or to address it.

**People deprived of their freedom**

With the end of the domestic trials of people accused of conflict-related crimes, leading to the release or sentencing of some members of the RUF and the West Side Boys (some of whom had been in detention since 1999), the number of detainees still being monitored individually by the ICRC at Pademba central prison decreased to 31.

As of 2005, the ICRC had shifted its focus from monitoring detention conditions to supporting the penal administration and in particular its reform. This approach complemented a wider reform of the justice system backed by UN and donor programmes, such as the Justice Sector Development Programme funded by the UK Department for International Development. Accordingly, the ICRC carried out a comprehensive assessment of the penal system, including juvenile detention, the findings of which were shared with the Ministry of Internal Affairs and other actors concerned. This enabled the ICRC to play a key role in the prison reform process and to support coordination among all the stakeholders.

57 people issued with ICRC travel documents
The authorities benefited from ICRC expertise, technical assistance and advice in dealing with health, water and sanitation issues in places of detention. However, they received little in the way of material assistance, the goal being to encourage them to seek solutions themselves and thereby build their own capacity to meet needs. Government and prison officials participated in seven interministerial round-tables organized by the ICRC on detention-related topics to foster cooperation among various government departments. Technical staff of the prison administration accompanied the ICRC in conducting five prison assessments to enhance their understanding of and capacity to assess the situation in prisons. The outcome of the assessment was incorporated into the strategic planning of the Justice Sector Development Programme.

- 1,763 detainees visited, 50 of them monitored individually (1 minor), including 4 newly registered, during 31 visits to 16 detention facilities, including the central prison housing detainees held in relation to the conflict and the detention facility of the Special Court for Sierra Leone. Housing 9 detainees registered by the ICRC.
- 595 RCMs collected from detainees and 317 RCMs distributed to them.
- The detention of 2 foreign nationals notified to the relevant embassies.
- 69 detention certificates issued to former detainees or their families.

**AUTHORITIES**

The creation of a network of national and international experts to stimulate interest and strengthen the country’s capacity in IHL promotion and implementation was an ICRC priority. To this end, contacts were established with representatives of government ministries, the military, the Special Court for Sierra Leone and other key bodies.

The authorities sought the ICRC’s support, *inter alia*, in updating the Geneva Conventions Act to include the Additional Protocols and received material and technical support in drafting a bill on the Ottawa Convention. With ICRC encouragement, the authorities signed Additional Protocol III.

- representatives of the government, judiciary and civil society participated in a seminar on the Rome Statute.
- 150 councillors in 3 districts attended workshops on IHL and the ICRC.
- 78 journalists attended workshops on IHL and the ICRC.
- a series of articles and radio/television programmes on IHL and the ICRC published or broadcast.
- "Red Cross na Salone" radio spots aired until mid-year; 4 radio programmes on the Movement broadcast.
- 2nd IHL moot court competition held.
- 1,200 college/university students familiarized with IHL.
- over 200 lecturers and students attended an IHL lecture.
- teaching of IHL intensified at one college; plans for a diploma in IHL announced by a second.
- an IHL teaching handbook for local universities drafted and submitted to the ICRC for review.

**CIVIL SOCIETY**

**Media**

The media maintained its strong relationship with the ICRC and regularly relayed information on the organization’s activities to the public. Al Jazeera television channel covered ICRC activities in Sierra Leone for broadcast in Arabic-speaking countries, and Télévision Suisse Romande created a web page on Sierra Leone with a link to Red Cross activities.

- The Sierra Leonean army received sustained support, including assistance in establishing a code of conduct for combatants and compiling an IHL instructor’s handbook.
- 50 army officers briefed on the application of IHL in peacekeeping missions.
- Around 6,150 military recruits/troops/policemen attended briefings/sessions on IHL and ICRC activities.
- 25 army officers attended an IHL trainers’ course; a pilot version of a training manual for instructors produced and field-tested.
- 40 Mongolian peacekeepers (protecting the Special Court) briefed on the ICRC and IHL.
- At a meeting of all actors involved in reform of the Sierra Leonean police force, the ICRC’s offer to support police training was welcomed.

Following the participation of senior police officers in a workshop, human rights law and IHL principles were included in all officer training programmes.

**RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT**

The Sierra Leonean Red Cross began a much-needed process of internal reform, with ICRC support and in close coordination with all Movement partners. The support focused on building the National Society’s capacity and helping it develop its programmes in a sustainable way. The Sierra Leonean Red Cross was selected to participate in the new “8 African National Societies initiative”, with the goal of optimizing the capacity building of the National Societies concerned.

- the National Society tracing structure and programme reviewed and tracing needs in Sierra Leone mapped out; tracing cases updated; RCMs collected and distributed.
- 28,603 people from all walks of life attended sessions on the Movement and IHL conducted by the National Society; drafting of a dissemination handbook by the National Society continued and information on the Movement conveyed to communities.
> over 70 volunteers attended a National Society youth camp to discuss their role in tracing and dissemination activities
> the National Society participated in workshops for army personnel, local government, journalists, the Labour Congress and other audiences
> community-based programmes carried out for children traumatized by conflict and for residents of war-torn communities; 600 children graduated from 4 child advocacy and rehabilitation centres run with the support of Movement components, including the ICRC
> 100 community volunteers in Pujehun district attended training in hygiene promotion; 3 latrines and wells constructed with ICRC funding
> an income-generating programme launched for vulnerable youth in Pujehun district with ICRC support

With the decline in the number of people awaiting family reunification in Liberian refugee camps, the ICRC/National Society transit centre for unaccompanied children and vulnerable adults in Kenema was closed.
In 2006, the ICRC:
- established regular dialogue with the parties to the conflict, reminding them of their responsibilities under IHL, and stepped up media contact to raise awareness of the plight of Somalis;
- as a neutral intermediary, repatriated Somalis detained by the US Navy, and entered into negotiations with all parties to the hostilities to obtain access to detainees;
- carried out major relief operations to assist victims of conflict, drought and floods, appealing for an additional CHF 15.8 million;
- provided food to some 465,000 people, clean drinking water to 1.5 million people, essential household items to over 900,000 IDPs and agricultural and veterinary support to some 1.2 million people; ran tracing and RCM services to enable dispersed family members to restore contact;
- flew 140 tonnes of medical supplies into Mogadishu and deployed surgical staff to help medical facilities treat thousands of weapon-wounded, and supported 21 Somali Red Crescent health clinics which conducted more than 173,000 outpatient consultations;
- worked closely with and supported the Somali Red Crescent and assumed the lead role in coordinating Movement activities in central and southern Somalia.

Somalis had just begun to recover from the drought when torrential rains hit in late October, causing widespread flooding along the Juba and Shebele rivers, where communities survived on subsistence farming. Entire towns and villages were isolated or their inhabitants displaced. Crops planted after the drought were destroyed, water sources contaminated and the fragile food-supply chain disrupted further.

Amid the drought, the floods and the deprivation caused by 15 years without a functioning government, the political landscape changed significantly and conflict escalated, claiming a high number of casualties and uprooting thousands more families. After protracted fighting, the Supreme Islamic Courts Council (SICC) took control of Mogadishu from a coalition of factions in June and proceeded to extend its presence into much of central and southern Somalia. At the end of December, the Baidoa-based transitional federal government, formed in October 2004 as part of the 14th Somali reconciliation process, launched a counter-offensive and with the support of the Ethiopian armed forces ousted the SICC from most areas it controlled. At year-end, the international community was in discussions to secure an African Union peacekeeping force for Somalia.

EXPENDITURE (IN KCHF)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Expenditure</th>
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</thead>
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<tr>
<td>Protection</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assistance</td>
<td>46,560</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prevention</td>
<td>666</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cooperation with National Societies</td>
<td>1,289</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>49,119</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of which: Overheads</td>
<td><strong>2,969</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

IMPLEMENTATION RATE

Expenditure/yearly budget: 103%
The ICRC remained a key provider of emergency aid in central and southern Somalia, mounting large-scale relief operations for victims of the drought, the floods and the conflict. The delegation stretched its operational capacity to the limit, delivering a combination of food, water, relief goods and agricultural and veterinary assistance to some 800,000 people during the drought and around 400,000 people affected by the floods. The sharp escalation in conflict led to several thousand weapon-wounded being treated at ICRC-supported hospitals and first-aid and health posts. In addition, thousands of uprooted Somalis restored contact with relatives at home and abroad through the tracing and RCM services.

For the first time in several years, the ICRC was able to establish regular contact with the main parties to the conflict in Somalia. During bilateral meetings with the transitional federal government and the SICC, the organization appealed for full compliance with IHL, stressing the protection afforded to people not or no longer taking part in the hostilities, and explained the ICRC’s mandate and strict principles of neutrality and independence. The delegation received security guarantees from both sides.

The dialogue with the parties to the conflict, combined with the ICRC’s long-standing presence in Somalia and its close working relationship with the Somali Red Crescent, allowed the delegation to deploy rapidly and carry out its relief operations as planned, with no major security or logistics problems. Flexibility was key. The ICRC constantly adapted its activities to the scale and urgency of needs, taking into account the constraints on the ground and the fact that it could not address all humanitarian needs. Operations were based on a realistic assessment of the ICRC’s capacity to deliver aid to communities in distress in a controlled and efficient way. With emergency aid the priority, the delegation carried out fewer than planned short- and medium-term projects aimed at boosting crop production and improving water facilities. Given the security situation, the ICRC limited the presence in Somalia of its expatriate staff, who remained based in Nairobi, Kenya, and had responsibility for overall strategy and management, while national staff kept field operations running smoothly.

As one of the few organizations with a permanent presence in Somalia, the ICRC regularly updated journalists on the humanitarian situation and drew attention to the applicable rules of IHL and customary law.

The ICRC continued to provide the Somali Red Crescent, its main operational partner, with substantial support to strengthen its governance and programmes. As lead agency for the Movement in central and southern Somalia, it also ensured the coordination of activities of all Movement partners. To further maximize the impact of humanitarian efforts, the delegation remained in close contact with aid organizations in the field and attended the meetings of Nairobi-based Somalia coordination bodies, comprising donors, UN agencies and NGOs.

### CIVILIANS

**Protecting civilians**

During formal discussions, the ICRC regularly reminded the transitional federal government and the SICC of their responsibility to spare civilians, their property and vital public infrastructure from attack, in accordance with IHL.

During violent demonstrations in Mogadishu, four international media correspondents requesting evacuation and the body of a Swedish journalist killed in the unrest were flown to Nairobi and handed over to the relevant authorities by the ICRC in its role as a neutral intermediary.

**Delivering emergency aid to drought, flood and conflict victims**

Around 800,000 victims of the drought and 400,000 people affected by the floods that hit central and southern Somalia in 2006 were assisted during relief operations mounted by the ICRC, with the support of the Somali Red Crescent. Families displaced by the escalating conflict or clan clashes also received emergency aid, mainly essential household items and, if they had access to land, seeds and tools. The lives of many of those IDPs were also threatened by the drought and floods. The drought-relief operation ran between January and July. On 17 March, the organization appealed for an additional CHF 15.8 million to cover the extra food aid, water-trucking services and veterinary assistance not budgeted for in 2006. Flood relief was initiated in early November, immediately after the rains arrived, and was scheduled to wind up in January 2007. Because many roads were impassable, the ICRC chartered planes to fly in relief goods and used boats to rescue people. All activities were coordinated with those of other aid organizations in the field, primarily Action Contre la Faim, CARE, Médecins sans Frontières, UNICEF and WFP.

Around 120,000 drought victims per month who had little or no food received...
dry-food rations between February and July. In addition, 180,000 near-destitute people received a two-month supply of meat. The meat came from the slaughter of 30,000 head of livestock bought from drought-stricken pastoralists at above depressed market prices.

The lack of clean drinking water during the drought and floods endangered lives and livelihoods. Drought victims and their livestock had access to water through water-trucking services (500,000 litres of water delivered daily between January and April) and the rehabilitation of over 100 key water facilities, including boreholes, wells, rainwater catchments and urban water treatment plants. Families moving with their herds stored water in over 2,000 empty drums provided by the ICRC. During the floods, water-trucking was used initially, but many roads became impassable. Some 175,000 people, mostly villagers along the Juba and Shebele rivers, had their access to water restored mainly through the setting up of emergency distribution systems, maintenance of water treatment plants and cleaning of wells.

Displaced families were able to set up temporary homes through the provision of shelter materials and any essential household items they lacked (mats, blankets, kitchenware, clothing, soap and jerrycans). To help households get back on their feet, families whose crops had been destroyed and IDPs with access to land received staple-crop seeds (15 kg per family) for the next planting season. The harvest was expected to cover about 50% of their annual cereal consumption. To boost the survival rate of livestock weakened by the drought, some 620,000 animals were treated against diseases and parasites by the ICRC, together with the Italian NGO COOPI and Vétérinaires sans Frontières–Switzerland.

The spread of disease was a major concern. ICRC-supported Somali Red Crescent health clinics monitored the situation and during the drought helped UNICEF carry out a measles vaccination campaign. During the floods, the clinics received 11,000 doses of oral rehydration salts to administer in the event of a cholera outbreak and soap to complement hygiene education sessions. To combat malaria, 46,800 families were provided with mosquito nets impregnated with insecticide. By year-end, no outbreaks of disease had been reported.

With the focus on emergency operations, fewer than planned livelihood-support projects were carried out in central and southern Somalia. Most of the projects completed helped drought and flood victims, thus complementing the relief activities. To protect their homes and fields from seasonal flooding, communities along the Juba and Shebele rivers were given some 502,000 empty sand bags, while around 1,500 riverside families used sluice gates built by the ICRC to regulate water levels and crop irrigation. Farmers received irrigation pumps to boost their crop production, and just over 57,000 people in 76 communities earned cash in return for their labour rehabilitating vital infrastructure, mainly water facilities. Poorer farming and nomadic families who fished to supplement their diet or income, but could not afford new nets and hooks, were given fishing gear.

464,982 people (77,497 households), including 49,062 IDPs (8,177 households), received a total of 12,923 tonnes of food
1,221,211 people (220,131 households), including 19,500 IDPs (3,250 households), benefited from agricultural, veterinary and fishing assistance, including the provision of seeds and tools to 542,100 people (90,350 households), veterinary treatment for the livestock of 189,000 drought victims (31,300 households) and destocking, which benefited 180,000 drought victims (30,000 households)
1,562,800 people and their livestock benefited from water projects, including emergency water-trucking services for 240,000 drought and flood victims
906,264 IDPs (151,044 households) received essential household items, including 196,236 long-term IDPs in Mogadishu and Kismayo
550 flood victims rescued by boat

Providing basic health care
In the absence of a public health service, primary health care was provided by the private sector, which many Somalis could not afford, and by international organizations and local NGOs, with varying levels of community support.

A total catchment population of some 200,000 residents and IDPs in conflict-affected areas of central and southern Somalia had access to free health care at 21 Somali Red Crescent clinics supported by the ICRC. The facilities received funds to cover running costs and salaries, as well as basic drugs, dressing materials, training and on-the-job supervision to enhance patient care and management. Following seminars to upgrade staff knowledge, the clinics introduced new diagnostic tests and treatment for malaria.

In the 21 ICRC-supported health centres:
173,384 consultations (28,394 ante/postnatal and 144,990 curative) were given;
80,553 vaccine doses were administered (36,920 to children aged five or under);
15,000 dressings were applied.

Fighting cholera
Mogadishu used to suffer from an average of two cholera epidemics a year, but there were no reported outbreaks of the disease in 2005 or 2006. As preventive measures, the ICRC, together with other organizations, continued to chlorinate more than 300 wells in the capital, and ICRC-produced cholera-prevention spots were broadcast on local radio stations. As in 2005, it was not necessary to reopen the five ICRC-supported Somali Red Crescent cholera treatment centres in Mogadishu.

Restoring family links
Thousands of Somalis uprooted by the instability in their country located and exchanged news with relatives at home and abroad through the tracing and RCM network run by the ICRC and the Somali Red Crescent. Somalis worldwide could have the names of relatives sought read out on the ICRC-supported Missing Persons radio programme, a 15-minute show broadcast six times a week on the BBC’s shortwave Somali Service. They could also visit the website www.familylinks.icrc.org to find the names of people sought through the radio programme or registered by the Somali Red Crescent over the past six months.

4,850 RCMs collected from and 12,079 RCMs distributed to civilians
new tracing requests registered for 624 people (324 females, 353 minors at the time of disappearance); 164 people located; 1,330 people (682 females, 772 minors at the time of disappearance) still being sought
6,537 names of people sought broadcast by the BBC and 6,155 registered on the ICRC’s website
91 Somali refugees accepted for resettlement in third countries issued with an ICRC travel document
PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

Both the federal transitional government and the SICC entered into discussions with the ICRC concerning visits to detainees held in connection with the hostilities.

In early 2006, 10 Somalis captured by the US Navy off the coast of Somalia were released and returned to Somalia, with the ICRC acting as a neutral intermediary at Washington’s request.

WOUNDED AND SICK

Treating the weapon-wounded

The escalating conflict underlined the importance of maintaining medical and health facilities in Somalia capable of treating the weapon-wounded and other trauma patients. In 2006, 140 tonnes of ICRC medical supplies were flown into Mogadishu, transported through an average of 50 checkpoints and distributed to hospitals and clinics to help them cope with influxes of wounded fighters and civilians.

As in past years, the Somali Red Crescent’s Keysaney hospital in Mogadishu North and the community-run Medina hospital in Mogadishu South, the main referral facilities for war surgery in central and southern Somalia, received ICRC medical supplies, training, on-the-job supervision, funds for running costs and salaries, and help with general maintenance. In addition, five first-aid posts situated in Bay, Middle Shabele, Lower Juba and Galgudud continued to benefit from the provision of supplies and training to administer first aid and stabilize serious trauma patients for referral to hospital.

Over 2006, other medical facilities treating the weapon-wounded, including Benadir hospital in Mogadishu, which was used by the SICC, also received supplies and equipment that had been stored in conflict-affected regions. During the fighting in December, for example, 10 hospitals in Mogadishu and the countryside treated some 800 weapon-wounded, mostly fighters, with the help of ICRC medical supplies.

Most medical facilities outside Mogadishu lacked the resources to perform war surgery, and transferring patients to the capital was difficult for security reasons and also costly. With the help of ICRC training and equipment, the regional hospitals in Jowhar (Middle Shabele) and Merca (Lower Shabele) were able to cope with the influx of wounded when the conflict spread from Mogadishu. When fighting flared up in Galkayo (Mudug) in February, the regional hospital there was assisted by ICRC surgical staff, who performed some 30 operations. During the floods in November, the same team treated weapon-wounded in the Somali Red Crescent clinic in Bardera (Gedo). Red Crescent volunteers had managed to get the wounded to the clinic using tractors and donkey-drawn carts, but then flooding blocked the route to the nearest medical centre.
During the year, the ICRC issued a series of press releases deploring the heavy casualties resulting from the conflict and urging fighters to spare people from attack who were not or no longer taking part in the hostilities and to protect medical staff, facilities and vehicles, in accordance with IHL. In general, medical infrastructure and personnel were respected. In late May, however, fighters briefly occupied Keysaney hospital, and in early July Medina hospital was hit by fire from heavy weapons, preventing staff from working for two days.

In ICRC-supported hospitals:

- 5,714 patients (928 women and 640 children) admitted:
  - 3,607 weapon-wounded (416 women, 191 children, 24 people injured by mines or explosive remnants of war);
  - 1,463 other surgical cases; 644 medical patients;
- 5,598 surgical operations performed;
- 5,695 outpatient consultations given.

At five ICRC-supported first-aid posts:

- 8,558 trauma patients (1,543 women and 2,579 children) treated.

**Civil Society**

After years of sporadic coverage, the media spotlight turned on Somalia, with journalists clamouring for information about the drought, the floods and the conflict. The ICRC, as one of the few organizations permanently present in Somalia, stepped up its communication with international and Somali journalists to highlight the dire humanitarian situation and raise awareness of IHL.

- the media updated through press releases, information bulletins, interviews and audiovisual material
- 8 schools in Mogadishu provided with 11,000 copies of a textbook on IHL and related Somali traditions, plus 5,000 copies of the accompanying teacher’s manual

**Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement**

The Somali Red Crescent Society was the ICRC’s main partner in the medical field, the distribution of relief goods and the collection and delivery of RCMs. Its local knowledge helped the ICRC work safely and effectively in a difficult environment. During a year of political upheaval and escalating conflict, the National Society received substantial ICRC support (funds, training, materials, equipment and logistics back-up) to meet the challenge of preserving its unity and operational capacity.

With ICRC input, the Somali Red Crescent executive committee met in September in Hargeisa to define goals and strategies. It adopted a new communication strategy to build up the National Society’s image, stressing the Fundamental Principles and IHL.

**Emergency aid**

More than 400 Somali Red Crescent personnel took part in the ICRC’s drought and flood relief operations. National Society volunteers were on the spot, helping to distribute relief goods, set up and monitor water systems and treat livestock against disease. With ICRC support, the National Society also continued to run Keysaney hospital in Mogadishu and 21 outpatient clinics in the violence-prone countryside (see Civilian and Wounded and sick for details).
In 2006, the ICRC:
- welcomed Sudan’s ratification of the 1977 Additional Protocols;
- documented allegations of IHL violations in Darfur, appealed to all sides to halt the abuses and promoted IHL at grassroots level among the authorities, weapon bearers and community leaders;
- in Darfur: provided food to over 300,000 people; improved access to clean water for 775,000 people; delivered seeds and tools to some 116,000 people; vaccinated over 230,000 animals against disease; and trained over 100 community animal-health workers;
- in Darfur, facilitated the release of detainees held by opposition groups and visited opposition-held detainees in 30 detention facilities; nationwide, distributed some 23,600 RCMs on behalf of family members separated by conflict;
- in Darfur, deployed a mobile surgical team that operated on over 400 weapon-wounded, supported 5 health centres and assisted in vaccination campaigns; elsewhere, supported 2 hospitals and 4 limb-fitting facilities treating patients from across Sudan;
- assisted the Sudanese Red Crescent in strengthening its capacity and helped coordinate the activities of partner National Societies working in Sudan.

The ICRC opened an office in Khartoum in 1978. In 1984, it initiated operations in the context of the conflict between government forces and the Sudan People’s Liberation Movement/Army and is now adapting its programmes to the transition to peace. Since early 2004, it has been responding to needs arising from the hostilities in Darfur. The ICRC’s priority is to ensure that people directly affected by armed conflict are protected in accordance with IHL, receive emergency aid, medical care and basic assistance to preserve their livelihoods, and can re-establish family links. It supports the Sudanese Red Crescent Society and provides leadership for other Movement partners working in Sudan.

Following the signing of the north-south Comprehensive Peace Agreement in January 2005, the new government of Southern Sudan, supported by UN peacekeepers and international aid, consolidated its structure and development plans. The north-south boundary had yet to be demarcated because of disagreement over the ruling on the resource-rich region of Abyei handed down in 2005 by the Abyei Boundary Commission. The Southern Sudan government faced the daunting challenge of rebuilding a region which, after 21 years of armed conflict, was poverty-stricken, had little infrastructure and few basic services and lacked skilled workers. Crime was on the rise, ethnic clashes persisted and a number of militias had yet to demobilize or join regular armed forces. In late November, fighting erupted over several days in the city of Malakal, involving a militia, the Sudanese army and the Sudan People’s Liberation Movement/Army (SPLM/A). The Lord’s Resistance Army, a Ugandan armed opposition group, remained a destabilizing presence in the far south, but from April entered into peace talks with the Ugandan government, mediated by the Southern Sudan authorities.

On 5 May 2006, the government and one faction of the Sudan Liberation Movement/Army (SLM/A) signed the Darfur Peace Agreement. However, other opposition groups demurred and the security situation in Darfur deteriorated further. Violations of IHL continued amidst ongoing military operations, the splintering of opposition groups and increasingly frequent ethnic clashes over land and resources. The escalating violence affected all of Darfur to varying degrees, forcing more people to flee their homes and restricting aid delivery. At year-end, an estimated 2 million people had been displaced during the three-year conflict. International pressure mounted to replace the 7,000-strong African Union (AU) peacekeeping force in Darfur with a stronger UN force. In December, the Sudanese government agreed in principle to a hybrid AU/UN operation.

Following the signing in October 2006 of a peace agreement with the opposition Eastern Front, mediated by Eritrea, Khartoum lifted the state of emergency in the north-east.
Sudan remained the ICRC’s largest operation for the third consecutive year. Activities stayed focused on protecting and assisting conflict victims and were constantly adapted to the scale and urgency of needs in Darfur. Like other organizations, the ICRC experienced a series of security incidents in Darfur (37 in 2006), one in which a driver was killed. While the security situation interrupted some activities, the ICRC, as a neutral and independent organization, remained operational in a large number of conflict-affected areas in Darfur.

Given the volatile situation in Darfur, the ICRC reinforced its efforts to ensure that people who were not or no longer taking part in the hostilities were protected and that its delegates had safe access to conflict victims. It stepped up its dialogue with all parties to the conflict, insisting on full compliance with IHL and explaining the ICRC’s strict principles of neutrality, independence and impartiality. Delegates documented allegations of IHL violations, took them up with the relevant parties and monitored their response. This dialogue became more difficult as armed groups fragmented and chains of command weakened. Sudan’s ratification in 2006 of the 1977 Additional Protocols signified a step forward in the protection of conflict victims.

In Darfur, the ICRC continued to focus on assisting populations in rural and remote areas as a complement to the large international aid effort in urban IDP camps. The aim was to help residents be self-sufficient, so that they would not have to move to urban centres for aid. During 2006, most of the ICRC’s remaining assistance projects in IDP camps were handed over to suitable partners. A security incident in mid-December delayed this process in Gereida IDP camp. The ICRC’s provision of food aid and agricultural support in rural Darfur since May 2004 contributed to an improvement in the economic situation of the beneficiaries. As a result, fewer people than anticipated needed full food rations in 2006. This, combined with the interruption of some distributions owing to security constraints, meant that 62% of the planned tonnage of food was delivered.

The ICRC continued to deploy a mobile surgical team in Darfur, which treated wounded civilians and fighters in remote areas, and supported rural health care and services for amputees.

The ICRC visited some people held by opposition groups in Darfur, while negotiations continued with Khartoum aimed at obtaining authorization to visit all detainees falling within the organization’s mandate.

Tracing and RCM services were expanded in Darfur and downsized in Southern Sudan, where people had increasing access to other means of communication.

After 19 years of treating patients evacuated from southern Sudan during the north-south conflict, the ICRC’s hospital in Lokichokio, Kenya, was handed over, as planned, to the Kenyan Health Ministry and its physical rehabilitation centre there closed. At the same time, the delegation took steps to ensure that equivalent services would be available in Southern Sudan.

The ICRC continued to assist the Sudanese Red Crescent in boosting its capacity to help vulnerable populations in conflict-affected regions. It also facilitated coordination within the Movement and stayed in contact with UN and other agencies in the field to further maximize the impact of aid.

### CIVILIANS

Around 4 million people were affected by the conflict in Darfur, about half of whom were IDPs living in camps or host communities.

#### Protecting civilians

On the basis of credible information, the ICRC made 11 written and 63 oral representations, in confidence, to the relevant authorities and parties to the conflict concerning alleged IHL violations collected from the people affected and eye witnesses. The allegations ranged from armed and sexual violence against individuals and the destruction of personal property and public infrastructure to forced taxation and protection fees. The ICRC urged all sides to take steps to halt the violations and monitored their response.
Delivering food aid and relief goods
From April, in coordination with WFP, needy residents in rural Darfur began receiving monthly half-rations of food from the ICRC. This allowed them, security permitting, to stay in their villages and farm their land. On the basis of ongoing monitoring, beneficiaries in only 3 of the ICRC’s 38 distribution areas required full rations from July to tide them over until the October/November harvest. Security constraints disrupted some food distributions, especially in the Jebel Marra massif, which the ICRC had taken over from WFP. Nonetheless, most beneficiaries targeted in 2006 received enough food to cover their basic needs until the harvest. The combination of lower than expected needs and insecurity meant that the delegation distributed 62% of its planned tonnage of food in 2006.

IDPs in Gereida, South Darfur, continued to receive monthly food rations, which the ICRC had been providing since the camp’s establishment in July 2004. Because of fighting nearby, the camp population swelled from 66,000 in January to some 120,000 in August when WFP took over the caseload. Throughout 2006, malnourished children in the camp continued to be treated at two ICRC feeding centres set up in 2005 in partnership with the British and Australian Red Cross Societies. Child malnutrition rates dropped after the centres provided mothers with more guidance on child care and hygiene, as recommended in a nutritional survey done in early 2006. IDPs in and around Seleia, West Darfur, also received food aid until July, when WFP took over the area.

Residents and IDPs recently affected by armed violence in rural Darfur and Southern Sudan set up home again with the help of ICRC shelter materials and essential household items.

- 311,542 people (64,350 households) in Darfur, including 135,026 IDPs (27,583 households), received food (22,445 tonnes in total)
- 412,086 people (86,513 households), including 102,814 IDPs (22,365 households), 53,276 of them (11,898 households) in Gereida IDP camp, received essential household items

Restoring livelihoods in Darfur
Before the June planting season, beneficiaries of ICRC food aid and other near-destitute families in rural Darfur with access to arable land were given, as appropriate, a combination of staple- and cash-crop seeds, together with 42,300 hoes and weederers and 40,000 explanatory leaflets. The worst-off beneficiaries, many of them women heads of household, also received donkey ploughs (5,116 in total) to lighten their physical workload and thus boost production. A July evaluation showed that 99.5% of the seeds were planted as recommended and some beneficiaries were cultivating over 50% more land compared with 2005. Security conditions permitting, the harvest was expected to cover a significant part of their needs for 12 months. There were, however, geographical variations, and the yield would still be below pre-conflict levels. The security situation prevented monitoring in some areas.

The conflict had also disrupted veterinary services, which was affecting livestock production, a mainstay of the Darfur economy. By year-end, with ICRC training and a starter kit of drugs, community animal-health workers were providing basic veterinary services in all three Darfur regions. A spot check done in Garsilla, West Darfur, showed that these services had contributed to a drop of up to 50% in the livestock mortality rate. In addition, the Department of Animal Resources and Fisheries revived its Darfur-wide livestock health surveillance network, thanks to regular updates from the community animal-health workers. Animals were also vaccinated against disease during two campaigns, with the ICRC organizing transport and logistics and the federal and local authorities providing vaccines and experts respectively. A third campaign and two veterinary courses had to be cancelled because of security constraints.

- 196,127 people (38,949 households) benefited from agricultural and veterinary projects, including the provision of seeds and tools to 96,492 residents (19,603 households) and 20,087 IDPs (3,435 households)
- 323,165 animals vaccinated
- 114 animal-health workers trained during 4 basic and 3 refresher courses

Providing clean water in Darfur
Over 700,000 people had their access to clean water restored through the ICRC’s rehabilitation of water facilities in small towns and the countryside. Wherever possible, the work was done in coordination with the local authorities. Communities with a regular supply of clean water nearby faced fewer health risks, while women could fetch water closer to home, thus reducing their risk of being attacked or harassed.

During 2006, the delegation handed over the water systems in four urban IDP camps to suitable partners. Oxfam, which took over Gereida IDP camp, continued to receive ICRC support to cope with influxes of IDPs and security-related disruptions.

- 677,000 residents in Darfur benefited from completed (647,000 people) and ongoing (30,000 people in Zalingei, West Darfur) water projects in 263 locations (3 urban networks, 370 hand pumps, 17 wells and 23 water yards – mechanized water points – rehabilitated)
- 128,000 IDPs benefited from the maintenance of water systems in 4 camps in North Darfur and emergency water services in Gereida camp

Ensuring primary health care
Around 212,000 people, 75% of them IDPs, had access to primary health care at five ICRC-supported clinics in North, West and South Darfur. The ICRC also helped out with routine immunization campaigns, especially in no-go areas for the Health Ministry. The clinic in Gereida was run in partnership with the British and Australian Red Cross Societies and the one in Seleia with the Canadian Red Cross. Seleia was handed over to Médecins sans Frontières at year-end. The handover of Gereida to Merlin was postponed because of a security incident.

In the five ICRC-supported health centres:

- 167,535 consultations (17,141 ante/post-natal and 150,394 curative) were given;
- 135,814 vaccine doses were administered (104,015 to children aged five or under and 31,564 to women of childbearing age)

Restoring family links
Thousands of Sudanese uprooted by conflict contacted relatives through the tracking and RCM services. The services were reinforced in Darfur and downsized in southern Sudan, where people had increasing access to other means of communication. Efforts focused in the south on restoring contact between children and their parents and, where requested, reunifying the families.

- 21,554 RCMs collected from and 23,551 RCMs distributed to civilians, including 133 from and 131 to unaccompanied/separated children
new tracing requests registered for 289 people (87 females, 100 minors at the time of disappearance); 418 people located: 1,148 people (365 females; 645 minors at the time of disappearance) still being sought
21 people reunited with their families, including 20 children
43 unaccompanied/separated children newly registered; 20 reunited with their families; 144 cases of such children still being handled

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

Discussions regarding visits to detainees were ongoing, but the Sudanese government had yet to sign an agreement negotiated by the ICRC and submitted in late 2005 authorizing such visits to take place according to standard ICRC procedures.

In Darfur, the ICRC visited some detainees held by the SLM/A and the National Redemption Front (NRF). Follow-up visits to monitor detainees’ treatment and living conditions were often hampered by security conditions, splits within the groups or attacks on detention facilities. The ICRC continued to follow up requests from families for information on the whereabouts of relatives allegedly captured or detained in connection with the Darfur conflict. It also acted as a neutral intermediary in facilitating the release and handover of detainees to the authorities or their families.

The authorities in the south were asked for feedback on 37 cases still pending of SPLA/M-held detainees whom the ICRC had registered during the north-south conflict.

- the cases of 172 detainees monitored individually (2 females, 10 minors), including 141 newly registered (10 minors), during 50 visits to 30 detention facilities
- 198 RCMs collected from and 135 RCMs distributed to detainees
- the release and handover of 93 SLM/A- or NRF-held detainees facilitated
- 35 of 82 new allegations of arrest resolved, leaving 181 cases being processed
- 127 detention certificates issued to former detainees or their families

WOUNDED AND SICK

Darfur

Despite the volatile security situation, 442 wounded fighters and civilians without access to a medical facility were operated on by a four-person ICRC field surgical team during 61 missions to remote and rural areas. To further boost surgical skills in Darfur, a total of 245 medical personnel, including 64 doctors, participated in war-surgery workshops organized by the ICRC in all three of the region’s capitals. In addition, 170 people in rural and remote areas attended sessions on first aid.

Southern Sudan

The ICRC’s Kenya-based Lopiding hospital, set up 19 years earlier primarily to treat the weapon-wounded evacuated from southern Sudan, was handed over, as planned, to the Kenyan Health Ministry on 30 June 2006. To help Southern Sudan provide equivalent services, the 500-bed Juba Teaching Hospital (JTH) continued to receive substantial ICRC support (16 expatriate personnel, training and incentives for 850 Sudanese staff, medicines and meals for patients and help with building maintenance). When a cholera epidemic hit in February, JTH received 30 tonnes of drugs, flown in by the ICRC, plus equipment and managerial back-up to expand the isolation ward. A contingency plan was drawn up to handle subsequent epidemics. This contributed to the effective treatment of over 100 cholera victims in just one day in November during another outbreak of the disease.

After the November fighting in Malakal, the hospital and armed forces were provided with dressing materials to treat the wounded, and the ICRC also helped collect the dead bodies.

In the 2 ICRC-supported hospitals:
- 22,308 patients (7,398 women and 10,342 children) admitted: 320 weapon-wounded (35 women, 82 children, 9 people injured by mines or explosive remnants of war); 2,242 other surgical cases; 6,981 medical, 3,656 gynaecological/obstetric and 9,109 paediatric patients; 7,021 surgical operations performed; 22,717 outpatient consultations given.

Treating disabled people

There were an estimated 40,000 people in Sudan needing artificial limbs or orthoses, 25% of them weapon-wounded.

The ICRC’s physical rehabilitation centre in Lokichokio, Kenya, closed, as planned, in 2006. Key staff and the equipment were transferred to the Juba Orthopaedic Workshop, run by the Social Welfare Ministry. The ministry and the ICRC also signed an agreement to build a new prosthetic/orthotic referral centre in Juba in 2007. In the north, the National Authority for Prosthetics and Orthotics continued to receive substantial support (staff, funds, training and materials) to run its Khartoum centre and Nyala workshop, the only such facility serving Darfur. In addition, war amputees from across Sudan had their transport and treatment costs at the Juba and Nyala workshops covered by the ICRC.

- 2,454 patients (505 women and 596 children) received services at 4 ICRC-supported physical rehabilitation centres
- 790 new patients (159 women and 45 children) fitted with prostheses and 553 (98 women and 310 children) with orthoses
- 1,342 prostheses (309 for women and 74 for children; 117 for mine victims), 1,059 orthoses (207 for women and 661 for children; 5 for mine victims) and 2,029 crutches delivered
- 14 students attended a three-year prosthetic/orthotic diploma course in Khartoum taught by the ICRC, and another 14 Sudanese students sponsored to attend courses abroad

AUTHORITIES

The authorities in Khartoum and the ICRC met regularly to discuss the organization’s activities, protection issues and the ratification and implementation of IHL treaties, for which the delegation provided legal and technical advice. The authorities in Southern Sudan and the ICRC also began working together to promote IHL.

Given the volatile situation in Darfur, it was crucial that the local authorities support IHL and the ICRC’s mandate, both for the protection of the civilian population and to ensure that ICRC workers had safe access to conflict victims.

- Additional Protocol I ratified by Sudan on 7 March and Additional Protocol II on 13 July
- 20 judges participated in a two-day IHL seminar in Khartoum, organized by the ICRC and Sudan’s Legal Reform Institute
3 government legal advisers and 2 Justice Ministry representatives sponsored to participate in regional IHL events in Egypt and Lebanon, respectively.

Over 50 members of Southern Sudan’s legislative assembly attended a one-day IHL seminar.

Local authorities across Darfur attended IHL presentations.

**ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS**

IHL presentations in the field for armed groups in Darfur remained a priority. In parallel, the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and national security and police forces continued to work together with the ICRC to integrate, as appropriate, IHL and human rights standards into their training, doctrine and operations. The AU Mission in Sudan (AMIS) and the UN Mission in Sudan (UNMIS) were also in frequent contact with the ICRC, and the SPLA and the ICRC initiated discussions on establishing an IHL training programme.

500 opposition fighters in Darfur, 520 central reserve forces members (army and police), including 60 officers, several hundred SAF members, including 30 officers at Khartoum’s War College, members of the SAF-SPLA Joint Integrated Units, AMIS officers and UN military observers attended IHL presentations.

15 national security and military intelligence personnel took part in a week-long IHL course.

1 national security member sponsored to participate in an IHL course abroad.

The SAF assisted in revising its army training manual.

Local police countrywide attended IHL presentations.

**CIVIL SOCIETY**

As armed violence escalated in Darfur, the ICRC stepped up its grassroots dissemination of IHL, holding seminars, workshops and presentations for tribal and community leaders, women’s groups, union members and young people. An increased use of videos, posters and photo albums proved effective in getting key IHL messages across to illiterate audiences.

Journalists regularly received updates, press releases and audiovisual material highlighting the humanitarian situation in Darfur.

Through the Sudanese and international media, the ICRC consistently advocated that all parties to the conflict in Darfur assume their responsibilities in preventing violations of IHL and providing a secure environment for civilians and aid workers. Sudanese journalists participated in two round-tables on IHL, chaired by the ICRC, while two Sudanese media representatives attended an ICRC seminar abroad on IHL and reporting on conflicts.

To further broaden support for IHL and the ICRC’s activities, religious leaders and academics in Khartoum and Darfur took part in discussions with the ICRC on the theme of Islam and IHL. For example, over 100 lecturers, students and politicians attended seminars on the topic at two universities in Khartoum.

Universities across Sudan continued to receive materials and technical advice to help them adapt their curricula to incorporate IHL. With ICRC support, 16 of Sudan’s 25 higher-education institutions taught IHL, assisted by a network of Sudanese legal experts.

**RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT**

**Strengthening the Sudanese Red Crescent Society**

The Sudanese Red Crescent Society (21 branches) worked with the ICRC and partner National Societies active in Sudan, as well as UN agencies and NGOs, to meet the needs of vulnerable populations. It received substantial ICRC support (funds, training, materials, logistics back-up and technical advice) to build up its capacity to assist conflict victims, help run the countrywide tracing and RCM network and promote IHL and the Fundamental Principles.

With ICRC support, the Sudanese Red Crescent:

- assisted conflict and flood victims;
- covered the salaries of 7 headquarters staff, as well as the salaries of 83 personnel, plus volunteers’ incentives and running costs in 10 branches located in violence-prone regions;
- conducted first-aid courses for 45 volunteers in Malakal and Juba;
- organized 8 tracing workshops for 187 volunteers and training in the Safer Access approach for 279 staff members across Sudan;
- held a management workshop for all heads of branches.

**Movement coordination**

Movement partners active in Darfur met weekly to share information and coordinate activities, while partner National Societies received ICRC assistance in the fields of logistics, security and communication. In parallel, the International Federation and the ICRC coordinated their efforts to help the Sudanese Red Crescent extend its activities in the south. At year-end, the National Society signed a memorandum of understanding with the government of Southern Sudan regulating its status and appointed an interim director for the south.
The ICRC has been active in Uganda since 1979. Following the killing of six ICRC staff members in April 2001 in neighbouring Democratic Republic of the Congo, it suspended its operations in Uganda, maintaining only an expatriate presence in Kampala. Late in 2003, given the dramatic needs of the victims of armed conflict in the north of the country, the ICRC resumed its field action, with a view to protecting and assisting those affected. These activities soon expanded into a major operation which has continued ever since. The ICRC also visits detainees falling within its mandate and strives to raise awareness of IHL and humanitarian principles among the armed and police forces.

**KEY POINTS**

- In 2006, the ICRC:
  - provided economic assistance to nearly 700,000 people (over 126,700 households) who had been displaced by insecurity related to the non-international armed conflict;
  - increased the water supply for 265,906 people in 24 IDP camps in northern Uganda by 32% through the drilling of boreholes and the installation or rehabilitation of hand pumps;
  - set up a cholera treatment unit in the Padibe IDP camp housing 50,000 people and ran cholera prevention campaigns in 10 other camps in Kitgum and Pader districts with the district health authorities, the National Society and “community-owned resource persons”;
  - held a two-week surgical training course for 4 doctors from 3 main hospitals in northern Uganda;
  - continued to visit detainees countrywide and, jointly with the Ugandan Prison Service, conducted an infrastructure survey and a nutrition survey in prisons to help find ways to improve general conditions of detention;
  - conducted 5 train-the-trainer courses on IHL and human rights standards in cooperation with the Ugandan army and police force, in line with memoranda of understanding signed in 2005.

**CONTEXT**

In Uganda’s first multi-party elections in more than 20 years, Yoweri Museveni won a third five-year term as president of Uganda, and his party won a majority of seats in the national assembly.

Security in northern Uganda improved throughout 2006. In July, a new peace initiative between the Lord’s Resistance Army (LRA) and the government of Uganda was launched in Juba, under the mediation of the government of southern Sudan. Negotiations led to the signature of a Cessation of Hostilities Agreement on 26 August, which was renewed and further elaborated by an addendum signed on 1 November. In line with the terms of the agreement, the LRA moved out of northern Uganda in order to assemble in two designated locations in Eastern and Western Equatoria in southern Sudan. Few LRA rebels remained in northern Uganda at the end of the year, and the peace process continued.

With the LRA largely outside the country and the security situation improving, some of northern Uganda’s nearly 1.7 million IDPs began to move from the more than 200 crowded camps scattered along main roads, towards new sites closer to their traditional homes and land. This trend was particularly marked in the Lango and Teso regions, where the general security environment had begun to improve earlier in the year.

In the second half of the year, military operations by the Uganda People’s Defence Forces (UPDF) to disarm traditional warlords in the Karamoja region led to an increase in violent confrontations there.

Uganda’s economy was hit by a general power crisis as water shortages reduced hydro-electric power generation. Industrial production declined steeply, and thousands of workers were laid off.

**EXPENDITURE (IN KCHF)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount (KCHF)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Protection</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assistance</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prevention</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>General</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Expenditure</strong></td>
<td><strong>18,917</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**IMPLEMENTATION RATE**

Expenditure/yearly budget: 91%

**PERSONNEL**

- 27 expatriates
- 174 national staff (daily workers not included)
The ICRC continued to work closely with cholera and meningitis outbreaks. By improving IDPs’ access to water, the ICRC supported their farming activities by providing them with seeds and tools, thus helping to improve their diet, income and self-sufficiency.

As the year went by, improving security allowed the ICRC to access all IDP camps in northern Uganda. Families received essential household items, such as jerrycans, soap and blankets. As IDPs gained greater access to their own land, the ICRC supported their farming activities by providing them with seeds and tools, thus helping to improve their diet, income and self-sufficiency.

IDPs’ access to water was enhanced by the drilling of new boreholes and the rehabilitation of non-functional water distribution points. IDPs also benefited from efforts to improve sanitation facilities and promote hygiene in the camps, thereby preventing cholera and meningitis outbreaks.

The ICRC continued to work closely with national and local health authorities. To build the capacity of the health system, staff ranging from doctors to traditional birth attendants received targeted training, while health facilities serving the population of northern Uganda continued to receive medicines, basic medical equipment and other items.

Detainees held in civilian and military places of detention received ICRC visits to check on their treatment and conditions of detention. Where necessary, recommendations for improvements were made as part of an ongoing confidential dialogue with the authorities. People held in places of detention in Karamoja were also visited, given the increase in arrests related to the upsurge of violence there. The Ugandan Prison Service (UPS) reform process benefited from ICRC support through a series of joint assessments, including a technical survey of the infrastructure of the country’s prisons and an assessment of the nutritional situation of the prison population.

Military and police forces at the national and district level received support from the ICRC in their efforts to foster respect for IHL and human rights.

The ICRC coordinated with other humanitarian agencies operating locally, including those participating in the emerging UN cluster system, in order to strengthen complementarity and avoid duplication or gaps in protecting and assisting those most in need.

The National Society and the ICRC continued to work closely together and conducted activities in northern and eastern Uganda according to agreed guidelines on the division of labour.

Despite improved security, the civilian population remained at risk of IHL and human rights violations at the hands of the various weapon bearers involved in the conflict. Inside the IDP camps, overcrowding, lack of clean water, poor sanitation and substandard health care continued to create an environment highly conducive to the spread of infectious diseases.

An estimated 200,000 refugees, mostly from Sudan but with some also originating from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and Rwanda, continued to live in camps in Uganda. Some could not re-establish family links and many had no means to maintain contact. Some children separated from their families needed help in tracing them.

**Protection activities for IDPs**

Alleged IHL and human rights violations were documented by delegates during regular visits to IDP camps. The findings were discussed confidentially with the local or regional commander, as well as with top UPDF officers in Kampala, with a view to putting a stop to such incidents.

**Improving IDPs’ living conditions**

Since IDPs had greater access to their farmland, they were given seeds and tools by the ICRC, as well as essential household items.
items, such as jerry cans, soap and blankets, to help them rebuild their livelihoods. The most vulnerable households, often headed by women, in 23 camps received approximately 38 kg of soap each over the year through monthly distributions, decreasing household expenses and providing a small surplus that could be bartered for other items.

IDPs in 24 camps where fire outbreaks had occurred received essential household goods, including tarpaulins for shelter, where necessary; some of these families also received food rations, in line with an agreement between the ICRC and WFP, where food supplies had been burned.

697,113 people (126,747 households) in 62 IDP camps received essential household items
5,383 people (978 households) received one emergency food ration
575,560 people (104,647 households) received vegetable and staple crop seeds, soap for pesticide production, and tools to enhance their diet, income and self-sufficiency

Improving IDPs’ health
In addition to support provided to referral hospitals (see *Wounded and sick*), health services at district and community level in Gulu, Kitgum and Pader received regular and ad hoc ICRC assistance.

Fifteen district health centres, serving a combined population of some 200,000, were supported with on-the-job training, essential medicines and basic medical equipment. They provided 144,106 consultations (8,127 ante- or postnatal, 135,979 curative). They conducted 70,841 immunizations, including 50,152 for children not older than 5 years.

In Kitgum and Pader, 54,698 children were treated for intestinal parasites in 12 camps.

In Kitgum, two maternity services were reactivated. Some 250 traditional birth attendants associated with the 15 ICRC-supported health centres were trained. Ninety-two cholera cases were treated at a newly set up cholera treatment unit in Padibe camp.

Some 900 health education sessions were held. They included information sessions for 50 district health centre staff and some 200 community health workers regarding the prevention of the most prevalent diseases, the use of essential drugs, first aid and emergency preparedness.

An extensive cholera prevention programme was conducted by district health authorities, the National Society and “community-owned resource persons”, together with the ICRC, in 10 IDP camps.

Insecticide-treated mosquito nets were distributed in five IDP camps as part of a malaria prevention campaign.

Improving water and sanitation for IDPs
The lack of clean water and adequate sanitation in the camps posed a major health threat.

265,906 people in 24 camps in northern Uganda gained a 32% increase in their water supply through 61 boreholes either drilled and equipped or rehabilitated with hand pumps

54,160 residents of Pabbo IDP camp gained a 25% increase in their water supply through the installation of 1 submersible pump and a distribution network

IDPs in 15 camps with a combined population of 114,500 people built 1,965 latrines with technical and material support; additional latrines were being built in Pabbo IDP camp and in 6 camps in Pader district

15,791 IDPs in 4 camps in Pader learned about hygiene and public health at regular information sessions supported by the ICRC; a similar campaign for 21,059 IDPs in 7 additional camps in Gulu was ongoing

344 IDPs trained in the use and maintenance of hand pumps in Pader

Restoring family links
Refugees and IDPs were able to re-establish communication with their families after long periods without news through the RCM and tracing services provided by the National Society, with technical and financial support from the ICRC.

An assessment of tracing and family reunification needs over a six-month period, taking into account plans for the voluntary repatriation of Sudanese refugees, led to updated guidelines, a revised training strategy and some recommendations for relevant National Society activities.

2,927 RCMs collected from and 1,278 RCMs distributed to people separated from their families, including 9 collected from and 9 distributed to unaccompanied children

5 unaccompanied children newly registered. 1 child reunited with its family by the ICRC and 12 cases still being processed

new tracing requests registered for 50 people (20 females, 21 minors at the time of disappearance); 18 people located; 37 people (17 females, 15 minors at the time of disappearance) still being sought

16 people issued with ICRC travel documents

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

Throughout the year, alleged members or sympathizers of various Ugandan armed groups were arrested by Ugandan security forces, especially in areas close to the DRC and southern Sudan. Arrests were also carried out in connection with the presidential elections or on “terrorism”-related charges.

The cases of detainees about whom there were particular protection concerns, including those mentioned above, were followed individually by the ICRC. Their treatment and detention conditions and respect for their judicial guarantees were assessed during ICRC visits to military barracks, police stations and central and local prisons. The findings from these visits were discussed confidentially with the authorities and recommendations were made for improvements.

Key documents submitted to the authorities concerned included a report on respect for the judicial guarantees of persons detained under the military justice system and an annual report on the treatment and conditions of detention of persons detained under the authority of the Ministry of Internal Affairs.

The poor state of Uganda’s prisons, combined with overcrowding, continued to adversely affect detainees’ well-being. The prison service was supported by the ICRC in its efforts to improve conditions. Based on joint assessments of the infrastructure and water and sanitation facilities conducted in ten prisons and of the nutritional situation in nine other prisons, the ICRC proposed several projects. It planned to carry out some of the projects itself, while assisting the authorities in seeking funding from donors for the rest.

Specific departments of the UPS, such as the engineering and medical departments, were able to draw on technical support and
advice from the ICRC. Where needed, detainees received blankets, mats, clothes, eating utensils, water containers and hygiene and recreational items.

Detainees and their families used the RCM service to correspond with each other, and detainees, including those on death row, received family visits facilitated by the ICRC.

- 509 detainees monitored individually, including 404 newly registered, during 189 visits to 71 places of detention
- 829 RCMs collected from and 617 RCMs distributed to detainees
- 74 detainees received family visits facilitated by the ICRC
- 101 released detainees had their transport/accommodation costs covered to return home
- 610 detainees in Gulu district prison benefited from the ICRC’s renovation of the sewage system
- 1,450 detainees and prison staff and their families living in Ibuga and Rwimi prison compounds benefited from improved quality and quantity of water, thanks to 3 newly-drilled boreholes
- 6,213 detainees in 16 prisons received material assistance, such as blankets or hygiene kits
- 8,675 inmates in 5 prisons received seeds, pesticides, tools and technical support to cultivate kitchen gardens
- work to improve the water supply at Gulu and Luzira central prisons (10,970 inmates) was ongoing

WOUNDED AND SICK

Government medical facilities in northern Uganda were poorly maintained and lacked funds, qualified staff, management capacity and supplies.

Seven hospitals in Gulu, Kitgum and Pader districts continued to receive medicines, sundry other supplies and training from the ICRC. These hospitals served as referral facilities for a catchment population of some 1.1 million people, 80% of them IDPs.

- 93,612 patients admitted among whom: 269 weapon-wounded surgical cases (including 42 mine/other explosive remnant of war injuries); 9,896 other surgical cases; 17,039 gynaecological/obstetric patients; 45,366 paediatric patients
- 6,160 surgical operations performed
- 277,536 outpatients received medical attention
- Missionary medical facilities received ad hoc ICRC assistance to make up for reduced funding from the Ministry of Health.

An average of 500 IDPs per month were able to use the facilities of a military hospital near their camps in Pader district, thanks in part to medicines and training in first aid and antenatal care provided to the hospital by the ICRC.

LRA returnees/ex-abductees received improved medical treatment at two reception centres in Gulu town following training in first aid and triage given to 23 staff, the provision of medicines and the strengthening of the referral system to the Lacor Missionary Hospital.

Four doctors from three hospitals in Gulu took part in a two-week surgical training course, supported by the ICRC’s regional surgeon based in Nairobi. Lectures on the management of general and trauma surgical cases and IHL were also conducted for students, doctors and lecturers at Gulu University’s medical school.

- 7 hospitals supplied with medicines and sundries on an ad hoc basis, including 2 government hospitals supplied with surgical and medical equipment
- Anaka Hospital (a referral facility for 80,000 people in Amuru district) received an operating theatre, surgical material and equipment
- a new pharmacy constructed at Kitgum Government Hospital (100 beds); hospital staff learned about pharmacy and stock management during a four-week ICRC-sponsored training course
- a monthly average of 10 evacuations/medical transfers from the camps to referral hospitals in the Acholi district carried out

AUTHORITIES

A national IHL committee was established in March under the auspices of the Foreign Affairs Ministry but could not be sustained owing to key personnel changes. The ICRC therefore focused on ongoing bilateral legislative initiatives.

The Minister of Gender, Labour and Social Development invited the ICRC to comment on draft legislation on the Chemical Weapons Convention Bill.

The Uganda Law Reform Commission invited the ICRC to join a task force reviewing the Children’s Act. The ICRC also approached the commission regarding a study to be carried out on the compatibility of national legislation with IHL.

In June, a Ugandan delegation participated in the 6th annual regional seminar on IHL implementation organized by the ICRC in Pretoria, South Africa.

ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

Armed forces
The first year of a three-year cooperation programme with the Ugandan army was completed as scheduled, and the chief of operations and training, in the presence of the chief of defence forces, commended the ICRC for its part in developing national IHL capacities.

Soldiers from the third military division (Karamoja region), the fourth and fifth military divisions (northern Uganda), the Chief of Army Command and a battalion departing on peacekeeping duties abroad attended basic dissemination sessions on IHL and the Movement.

- 91 army officers participated in 3 IHL train-the-trainer courses
- 76 selected officers attended 3 basic IHL courses
- 72 officers and 1,039 soldiers training for missions abroad attended a week-long dissemination session
- 4 officers sponsored to attend an IHL course in San Remo, Italy
- 4,063 officers and soldiers and local defence units took part in introductory IHL sessions in the field

Police force
Forty-six officers participated in two train-the-trainer courses on integrating international human rights standards and humanitarian principles into police doctrine, training and operations, concluding the first year of the cooperation agreement with the Ugandan police force.

- 2 police officers took part in an ICRC-organized workshop in Pretoria
- 40 officers assigned to peace-support operations in Darfur attended a pre-departure IHL/ICRC dissemination session
- 1,274 police officers and 27 prison warders briefed on ICRC activities and humanitarian principles
CIVIL SOCIETY

The ICRC delegation maintained close contact with three universities, as well as the media, to promote awareness of IHL, the ICRC and humanitarian issues.

- 3 lecturers from 2 universities attended an IHL training session in Geneva, Switzerland, and 4 lecturers from 2 universities attended an advanced IHL seminar in Pretoria, South Africa.
- 239 students from the country’s 3 main law faculties attended an IHL lecture.
- 2 student teams from 2 universities participated in an ICRC-organized regional IHL moot court competition in Arusha, United Republic of Tanzania.
- 103 ICRC news items featured in the media.

RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT

The Uganda Red Cross Society and the ICRC continued to work in close coordination, particularly in their complementary assistance operations in northern Uganda.

- The ICRC provided the National Society with advice, training and logistics, and maintained substantial technical and financial support to its emergency preparedness, communication and tracing activities. The standard operational procedures developed jointly in 2005 continued to guide the National Society’s work in conflict situations and other emergencies.

In April, the National Society organized an extraordinary National Council to discuss fundamental issues of governance and management. During the second half of the year, it conducted an extensive review of the 2002–06 Strategic Plan and developed a new one for 2007–10. The plan included streamlining its programmes, decentralizing its operations and slimming down its headquarters.

The National Society continued to shift the focus of its operations in northern Uganda from relief distributions to basic health, hygiene and sanitation programmes, supported in Kitgum and Pader by the Danish Red Cross/European Commission’s humanitarian Aid Office and in Amuria/Katakwi and Lira by the British Red Cross/UK Department for International Development. The German Red Cross received funds from the German government for a four-month assistance project in Apac.

Over 60 Red Cross volunteers in IDP camps and sub-counties in five districts were coached by five National Society dissemination officers who had been trained in 2005. New modular flipcharts in Luo, covering various subjects on the National Society, the Movement and basic IHL, were used.

Twenty-three tracing assistants and volunteers from eight Red Cross branches in the West Nile region and western Uganda attended ICRC-organized training, using new course modules developed with the organization’s technical support.

The ICRC continued to coordinate its activities with partner National Societies supporting the Ugandan Red Cross and with the International Federation.
**KEY POINTS**

In 2006, the ICRC:
- opened an office in Guiglo in Côte d’Ivoire and another in Ouagadougou in Burkina Faso;
- visited 14,076 detainees throughout Côte d’Ivoire and provided them with assistance, including life-saving therapeutic feeding in 9 Ivorian prisons; visited 2,575 detainees in Togo’s main prisons, following the signing in March of an agreement with the government;
- helped ensure the supply of water to 1.5 million people in northern Côte d’Ivoire;
- provided 37,339 people with agricultural assistance, 12,049 people with food and 23,804 people with essential household items in Côte d’Ivoire;
- supported 32 health facilities in Côte d’Ivoire; conducted a vaccination campaign in central and western Côte d’Ivoire;
- promoted IHL and the Red Cross among all weapon bearers and various sectors of society throughout the region.

In the countries covered by the regional delegation, established in 1992, the ICRC supports the authorities in implementing IHL, encourages the armed and security forces to respect IHL and develops protection activities particularly in the field of detention and restoring family links. It also supports the institutional development of the region’s National Societies. Since the outbreak of the crisis in Côte d’Ivoire in 2002, the ICRC’s regional delegation in Abidjan has focused on maintaining and expanding its operational capacity to protect and assist people affected by the crisis, visiting detention places and monitoring the situation countrywide. The ICRC coordinates its activities with the Ivorian Red Cross.

**CONTEXT**

Under the leadership of Charles Konan Banny, a new government was formed in Côte d’Ivoire in December 2005. The first half of 2006 saw other positive developments, including meetings of the Council of Ministers attended by the Forces Nouvelles political leader and Minister for Reconstruction, Guillaume Soro. The process of identifying Ivorian nationals got under way, and school examinations were organized in the north for the first time since 2003.

However, the crisis lingered, with no major breakthrough in the disarmament process or in establishing a voter register. On 1 November, the UN Security Council once again rescheduled the elections initially planned for October 2005, this time for October 2007 at the latest. It also extended President Gbagbo’s and Prime Minister Banny’s mandates for another year to give the latter time to complete preparations for the elections.

The country remained split into two regions: the south controlled by the government and the north controlled by the Forces Nouvelles. In December, President Gbagbo announced a proposal for direct negotiations with the Forces Nouvelles leadership, disregarding international efforts to resolve the crisis. He also proposed to do away with the Zone de Confiance, a demilitarized buffer area patrolled by over 7,000 troops of the UN Operation in Côte d’Ivoire (ONUCI) and 4,000 French troops (Force Licorne).

Meanwhile, the situation of the civilian population deteriorated steadily. Displacements continued, triggered by intercommunal violence and racketeering by armed elements. The number of people killed or missing rose, particularly in the west. Major ethnic groups in certain regions hindered access by minority ethnic groups to basic services. In the prevailing insecurity, civilians, particularly in rural areas, had to contend with greatly reduced essential services, including education, health care, water supply and trade. To compound already difficult economic circumstances, the region bordering the Sahel became increasingly subject to erratic rainfall and desertification.

State administration either stayed away from the north or redeployed there only partially. The absence of judicial and penal systems continued to have serious implications for people arrested and detained in the north as well as in the south.

A ship dumped 400 tonnes of toxic waste in open-air sites around Abidjan in August. The incident caused the deaths of 8 people, the hospitalization of 69, rioting and the resignation of Prime Minister Banny’s cabinet. A new government, also headed by Mr Banny, was formed in September.

In Benin, Yayi Boni was elected president in March.

**COVERING**

Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d’Ivoire, Ghana, Togo

**EXPENDITURE (IN KCHF)**

- Protection: 4,244
- Assistance: 10,466
- Prevention: 3,083
- Cooperation with National Societies: 1,999
- General: -

Total: 19,792 (of which: Overheads 1,202)

**IMPLEMENTATION RATE**

Expenditure/yearly budget: 88%

**PERSONNEL**

- 49 expatriates
- 207 national staff (daily workers not included)
In Togo, the government and the opposition signed an agreement, brokered by Burkinan President Blaise Compaoré, to end the crisis that began following the death of President Gnassingbe Eyadema in 2005. Subsequently, a government of national unity was created. Meanwhile, Togolese refugees in Benin and Ghana started returning to Togo.

In Burkina Faso, following the re-election in November 2005 of President Compaoré, the government and the opposition pursued a dialogue to establish a representative government. In the meantime, in April 2006, the Congress for Democracy and Progress, President Compaoré’s party, won municipal elections, strengthening its political position.

**ICRC ACTION**

Through intensified integrated protection and assistance activities, the ICRC stepped up its presence in conflict-prone regions of Côte d’Ivoire, chiefly the Zone de Confinement in the west. As part of this process, the organization opened an office in Guiglo in April.

Given the prevailing uncertainty, the ICRC remained flexible, ready to adapt its activities to any new developments. It propped up essential services, such as those provided by the national water board (SODECI) and hospitals in the north, and continued implementing relief programmes for conflict-affected populations.

In north-eastern and central Côte d’Ivoire, agricultural projects helped alleviate hardship among civilians, while food and material assistance was extended to IDPs caught up in intercommunal clashes in the west.

In terms of medical support, the ICRC concentrated on preventive measures, notably the implementation of the Extended Programme on Immunization in the central and western regions of Côte d’Ivoire.

The ICRC intensified visits to detainees and responded promptly and fully to problems observed, primarily by carrying out life-saving therapeutic feeding programmes in civilian prisons. The outcome of the programmes was encouraging: the mortality rate had dropped by half or even two-thirds in certain prisons within a year. Another notable outcome of ICRC interventions was the government’s deployment of nurses to 21 civilian prisons in the south (compared with just 6 in 2005) to help improve the medical situation there.

Efforts were pursued to familiarize the authorities, weapon bearers and the public with IHL, the ICRC and its working methods. Although the Red Cross was not a target of attacks as such, the unpredictability of the general environment compelled Movement partners to strictly observe established security procedures.

The ICRC maintained a dialogue with other humanitarian actors to coordinate activities.

The opening of an office in Ouagadougou in April put the ICRC in a better position to adapt its operations should the situation worsen in Côte d’Ivoire.

In March, the ICRC obtained unfettered access to detainees in Togo, and in May visited the country’s five largest prisons.

**CIVILIANS**

**Protection and family links**

In Côte d’Ivoire, the ICRC documented allegations of IHL and human rights violations perpetrated against civilians by weapon bearers and took them up with the government authorities and leaders of the Forces Nouvelles.

Some 38,000 Liberian refugees reportedly remained in Côte d’Ivoire and around 37,000 in Ghana, while nearly 16,000 Ivorian refugees stayed in Liberia and over 3,000 in Sierra Leone. A large number of Burkinans who returned home in 2002 had no news of relatives left in Côte d’Ivoire, while most Burkinans still in Côte d’Ivoire were in...
remote areas and unable to travel easily. Through the RCM network, refugees and other conflict-affected populations were able to re-establish contact with their families.

The number of children separated from their families and monitored by the ICRC dropped again. With the demobilization process not yet started in Côte d’Ivoire, the tracing of families of children possibly still associated with fighting forces could not begin. Ivorian IDPs continued to depend on tracing services.

The Forces Nouvelles received material and technical support in the handling and identification of 32 human remains and in marking burial sites so that families could be duly informed of the fate of their loved ones.

ICRC support also included training and community health awareness:

- 52,555 vaccine doses were administered (51,807 to children aged five or under and 748 to women of childbearing age)
- 5,838 women/girls) attended curative consultations
- 250 birth attendants given training in delivery techniques and the harmful effects of female genital mutilation and provided with 1,500 delivery kits

The Ivorian Red Cross received drugs to treat some 3,000 casualties of toxic waste dumping.

Water and sanitation

Throughout the country, water and sanitation programmes were launched in 2006 to meet their basic needs. A survey had earlier revealed a growing phenomenon of vulnerability and impoverishment attributed to the adverse effects of the conflict, poor rainfall and soil quality on the agricultural sector.

- 13,915 people (2,783 households) in Bouna, Ferkessedougou and Korhogo received maize and rice seed and fertilizer
- 12,500 people (1,481 households) in Bouaké received yam and maize seed
- 9,970 returnees (1,954 households) in Duékoué region received agricultural tools
- programme beneficiaries provided with technical assistance

In Bouaké and Man, 1,154 people in 10 institutions developed income-generating projects, including small-scale businesses, yam plantations and the production and sale of ice cream, with the technical, material and financial support of the ICRC. The support also included food rations (for 2,115 people) and household items (for 1,985 people).
In the Zone de Confiance, south of Man, two groups of women (comprising widows, orphans and/or underage mothers) also launched income-generating projects including pig breeding, a cooperative equipped with a rice/coffee husker, and a cassava mill.

From September, 60 children received treatment at the Ivorian Red Cross therapeutic feeding centre in Korhogo.

Over the year, people displaced following clashes in Bangolo or among the host population received one-off support to help them cover their basic needs.

- 12,049 people (1,628 households) received food rations
- 21,819 people (3,582 households) received essential household items

The region
Some 400 Ghanaians displaced from the Lake Volta region were provided with tar-paulins, buckets, kitchen sets, pieces of cloth, mats and soap.

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

Côte d’Ivoire
The ICRC had access to detainees held in connection with the conflict or on criminal charges throughout Côte d’Ivoire. It made representations to the local and central authorities concerning the treatment of detainees and their conditions of detention. Discussions with the penal authorities primarily revolved around living conditions, the food situation and medical care in prisons.

Government-controlled areas
Assessments of 15 civil prisons found that 4 required urgent construction work to improve sanitation, water supply facilities and kitchens. To this end, 2 projects were launched to disinfect and rehabilitate sanitation, kitchen facilities and other facilities and thereby improve living conditions for 6,600 inmates.

- 13,285 detainees visited, 320 of them monitored individually (5 females, 6 minors), during 135 visits to 44 places of detention (including one military prison, civil prisons and places of temporary detention)
- 1,570 malnourished detainees benefited from a supplementary food programme that helped reduce, by half, the mortality rate among detainees in civilian jails
- 900 detainees received essential household items
- nurses assigned to 21 of the 22 civil prisons, an increase from 6 in 2005

Forces Nouvelles-controlled areas
The lack of a functioning judicial system in Forces Nouvelles-controlled regions had repercussions on judicial guarantees. Concerned about prison conditions in those regions, the ICRC made representations to the leaders.

- 791 detainees visited, 200 of them monitored individually (8 females, 13 minors), during 246 visits to 79 places of detention (including prisons, military camps and places of temporary detention)
- regular meals provided to 2 prisons by a religious association, with financial support from the ICRC

The region
In March, the Togolese authorities and the ICRC signed an agreement on visits to detainees. Following visits to Togo’s main prisons, which started in May and focused on security detainees, a report was submitted to the authorities. Also visited were people held in places of temporary detention.

- Togo: 2,575 detainees visited, 46 of them monitored individually (1 minor), during 12 visits to 9 places of detention
- Benin: 2 detainees visited and monitored individually, during 2 visits to 1 place of detention
- Burkina Faso: 2 detainees visited and monitored individually, during 1 visit to 1 place of detention

All detainees visited in the region were offered the opportunity to communicate with their families through the Red Cross message network.

- 1,147 RCMS collected from and distributed to detainees
- 589 RCMS distributed to detainees
- 40 detention certificates issued for former detainees or their families

WOUNDED AND SICK

Côte d’Ivoire
During violent demonstrations that rocked major towns in southern Côte d’Ivoire, including Abidjan, in January, various local Red Cross branches received first-aid material to treat casualties.

- 80 casualties of violence in Divo treated by Red Cross volunteers and Divo hospital; 5 people evacuated to Abidjan
- Forces Nouvelles fighters and civilians in Bouaké region attended sessions on first aid, IHL and the Movement organized by the Ivorian Red Cross, during which they were also informed about sexually transmitted diseases, HIV/AIDS and hygiene
- members of the Jeunes Patriotes movement attended sessions on first aid in Gagnoa

Kits to treat 100 wounded people were kept in stock in the sub-delegations of Bouaké, Gagnoa and Man and the office in Korhogo.

AUTHORITIES

The authorities at various levels continued to take steps, with ICRC support and advice, to ratify IHL treaties and to incorporate their provisions into national legislation.

- the Burkinan authorities continued drafting a bill on the Rome Statute
- Ghanaian parliamentarians, Ivorian national IHL committee members and Togolese government officials attended IHL meetings and a workshop
- 4 Togolese and Burkinan government representatives attended an IHL seminar co-organized by the ICRC and the Economic Community of West African States

The African Union invited the ICRC to attend its ministerial conferences in Ouagadougou, in Burkina Faso, on forced population displacements.

ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

The region’s defence, security and police forces had made progress in incorporating IHL/human rights law into their training and command structures and were in the process of translating IHL rules into orders and procedures.

Côte d’Ivoire
- 2 Ivorian officers attended an IHL course in San Remo
- 1,240 personnel and cadets of the armed and security forces, including ONUCI representatives, attended sessions on IHL and the ICRC
- 15 high-ranking gendarmerie officers participated in an IHL workshop organized by the ICRC
The region

700 Togolese police rookies attended sessions on the Movement
300 future Togolese peacekeeping troops attended IHL sessions
1 Togolese and 1 Burkinan military officer participated in an IHL course in San Remo; 1 Togolese officer attended an IHL trainers’ course in Nairobi, Kenya
20 Togolese army officers received training in IHL
redrafting of the Burkinan military justice code to include the repression of serious violations of IHL progressed

CIVIL SOCIETY

Good relations between the media and the ICRC and the organization of a series of workshops made it possible for various audiences to learn about IHL, the Fundamental Principles and the ICRC’s concerns.

Ivorian journalists attended 4 workshops and a press conference on IHL and the Movement
200 Ivorian students from institutions of higher learning attended IHL sessions; IHL introduced into the curricula of future diplomats and magistrates
in Côte d’Ivoire, the introduction of the Exploring Humanitarian Law programme into secondary and primary school teacher-training continued; 85 Education Ministry officials participated in a seminar on the programme; 350 students learned about IHL through the programme
in Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d’Ivoire and Togo, various IHL and Red Cross events and ICRC documentaries broadcast on television as were activities to mark World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day (8 May)
30 representatives of civil society in Burkina Faso attended a session on IHL and the Movement
lecturers from 4 countries of the region attended the 3rd pan-African IHL course, organized with the University of Ouagadougou
in Benin and Togo, 400 students from institutions of higher learning attended IHL courses; Togo’s Ecole nationale d’administration began teaching IHL

RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT

With ICRC financial, material, technical and logistic support, the National Societies implemented a range of activities, including strengthening the operational capacities of branches in conflict-prone regions (Côte d’Ivoire, Benin, Burkina Faso and Togo) and institutional restructuring (Benin and Ghana).

Emergency preparedness
Côte d’Ivoire
Red Cross volunteers supported the ICRC in carrying out nutritional programmes in prisons, sessions on first aid and HIV/AIDS attended by weapon bearers and various sectors of society, and vaccination, food, agricultural, water, sanitation and IHL programmes.

The region
414 first-aid volunteers, heads of brigades and trainers from 4 National Societies attended courses; basic first-aid materials supplied
90 volunteers from the Red Cross of Benin attended 3 workshops on first aid; the National Society supported by the International Federation and the ICRC in providing first aid during presidential elections
180 Burkinan first-aid workers attended 6 sessions on the Safer Access approach

Promotion of IHL
Côte d’Ivoire
140 pupils, students and community health workers attended sessions on the Red Cross and public health
information sessions on the Movement organized on World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day

university students in Abidjan and dissemination volunteers in violence-prone areas, including those in territory controlled by the Forces Nouvelles, attended information sessions on various Red Cross activities
3,100 people, including students, militia members and NGO representatives, attended 4 sessions on IHL and the Movement
Active in Nigeria during the Biafran war (1966–70), the ICRC established a regional delegation in Lagos in 1988 and relocated to Abuja in 2003. The ICRC works to enhance the Nigerian Red Cross Society’s capacity to respond to emergencies countrywide. It supports the National Society’s tracing and dissemination activities and a programme to improve hygiene and sanitation in prisons. Working with the authorities, the armed forces, the police and civil society, the organization promotes awareness of IHL and its national implementation. The ICRC and the National Society work to promote the Red Cross.

Campaigning began for presidential elections, scheduled for April 2007, with most political parties concluding their party primaries and conventions. The ruling People’s Democratic Party nominated as its candidate a little-known northern state governor, Umaru Musa Yar’Adua, with another serving governor from the Niger Delta region as his running mate. An amendment to the party’s constitution paved the way for President Obasanjo to chair the party’s board of trustees after his departure from office in 2007. Vice-President Atiku Abubakar, while fending off allegations of financial irregularities, gained the nomination of an opposition party, the Action Congress, although some legal obstacles to his challenge remained. As elections approached, politically driven violence rose countrywide.

A deal between the Nigerian government and the Paris Club of public creditors saw a substantial part of the country’s external debt written off, making it possible for the West African nation to clear the remaining debt using reserves from oil sales. Frustration over the government’s inability to deliver on basic issues and essential services such as security, health care, education, housing and utilities continued to fuel tension and internal violence.
ICRC ACTION

The ICRC continued to focus on preventive activities, humanitarian diplomacy and strengthening the capacity of the Nigerian Red Cross Society. It pursued dialogue with the political authorities and civil society in order to deepen its understanding of the complex realities in Nigeria, promote awareness and implementation of IHL, exchange information on issues of humanitarian concern and anticipate crises.

With ICRC support, the Nigerian Red Cross provided assistance to people affected by intercommunal clashes, urban riots and other disturbances, including incidents of political violence such as those sparked by the Danish cartoon row. Cooperation between the two organizations included the holding of workshops on conflict preparedness and response, the pre-positioning of emergency relief and medical supplies in each of the National Society’s six zones countrywide, and familiarization of Red Cross volunteers and staff with the basics of IHL and the Fundamental Principles.

The ICRC maintained its support to the National Society’s tracing and prison sanitation programmes. Implementation of the Alternative to Violence Project, which consisted mainly of participatory workshops for young people likely to be involved in violence, ceased mid-year. Together with the National Society, the ICRC designed and started working on the methodology for a new community-based programme targeting violence-prone youth.

The ICRC endeavoured to increase understanding and acceptance of the Red Cross mandate and activities and to promote IHL in part to ensure that Movement staff had safe access to people affected by internal disturbances. The organization continued to encourage weapon bearers to respect IHL and human rights law both during internal security operations in Nigeria and while taking part in peace-support operations with the UN or African Union elsewhere. To this end, the ICRC concentrated on building relations with the military command and working towards the army’s autonomy in IHL training, while maintaining technical and other support to the police.

Contacts with national and local authorities, prison officials, traditional rulers, religious leaders and opinion-leaders were strengthened as part of a broader global effort to promote mutual understanding.

Through dialogue with the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the ICRC sought the regional body’s support in facilitating the conduct of ICRC operations and, more generally, promoting IHL in West Africa.

AUTHORITIES

National authorities benefited from ICRC legal support in the drafting of an updated Geneva Conventions and Additional Protocols Act; a draft bill was subsequently submitted to the minister of justice and discussed by government experts during a full-day session. National authorities were also briefed on the red crystal emblem.

Members of relevant parliamentary commissions involved in the implementation of IHL attended an ICRC-organized information session.

The increase in ECOWAS regional responsibilities brought with it a need for greater integration of IHL, and specific issues such as child protection, into the training and procedures of its Standby Brigades, Emergency Response Teams and other operational units. Contacts were therefore strengthened with the regional body and discussions held on these and other humanitarian issues. Legal experts from the region participated in a seminar co-organized by ECOWAS and the ICRC on the implementation of IHL in West Africa.

The ECOWAS Small Arms Convention was drafted with ICRC legal support.

ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

The ICRC concentrated on developing relations with the military command and building the army’s autonomy in IHL training.

- members of key military training institutions regularly attended presentations on IHL and the ICRC mandate and activities
- 28 military instructors attended a train-the-trainer course
- 680 future peacekeepers briefed on IHL
- battalion commanders attending 2 workshops on internal security operations plus an operational unit in a violence-prone state briefed on the Red Cross and the legal framework applicable in situations of internal disturbances
- 47 police instructors participated in 2 train-the-trainer courses on human rights law/IHL principles relevant to police functions and attended presentations on the Red Cross
- 680 police officers attended information sessions on the National Society’s role and activities in times of internal disturbances

CIVIL SOCIETY

The ICRC continued to strengthen contacts with key civil society sectors, notably the media and NGOs involved in violence prevention, in order to promote IHL among a wider public and ensure accurate coverage of the Movement’s activities. Attention was drawn in particular to the plight of people affected by riots and intercommunal clashes.
studies completed on religious groupings in Nigerian society and their acceptance of the Red Cross
journalists from key media and staff of human rights NGOs briefed on the Red Cross and its activities
representatives of Muslim aid groups participated in first-aid sessions
6,000 key contacts received an issue of the Red Cross magazine produced jointly by the National Society and the ICRC in Nigeria
exhibitions of contemporary art and photography on humanitarian themes organized to raise awareness of IHL and publicize the work of the Red Cross.

The ICRC assessed IHL instruction in universities and developed contacts with academics specializing in Islamic law.

law lecturers from 15 universities attended an IHL workshop
3 IHL lecturers sponsored to attend IHL training abroad
200 students briefed on IHL
a team of students sponsored to participate in a regional IHL competition in Arusha, United Republic of Tanzania (see Nairobi)

RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT

The Nigerian Red Cross Society received technical, material and financial assistance from the ICRC for a number of its activities.

Emergency preparedness
During the year, the National Society enhanced its ability to respond rapidly to internal violence by training 632 first-aiders and first-aid trainers and establishing more emergency response teams.

During the upsurge in violence in February and March in Anambra, Bauchi, Borno, Gombe, Katsina and Plateau states, the National Society assessed needs, administered first aid and evacuated the wounded to medical facilities, distributed food and material aid to IDPs and established a temporary health post for IDPs in Bauchi.

As tension mounted in the run-up to the 2007 presidential elections:

282 Red Cross staff participated in 7 emergency response and first-aid training workshops for team leaders;
309 volunteers trained in first aid by Red Cross branches in localities especially prone to violence;

partnership strengthened between state police and the Emergency Management Agency and the National Society;
5 branches equipped with communications materials.

Restoration of family links
257 RCMs collected at Oru refugee camp, 338 RCMs distributed; tracing services provided; tracing requests for 26 people being processed (9 females, 11 minors at the time of disappearance)
a tracing coordinator sponsored to make a study tour of Sierra Leone

Prison sanitation programme
The National Society provided 36 prisons with hygiene and sanitation assistance and completed two micro-projects in Kano and Calabar main prisons.

Alternative to Violence Project (AVP)
The AVP, jointly implemented by AVP-Nigeria (a local NGO), the Nigerian Red Cross Society and the ICRC, ended in July 2006, six months earlier than planned. The National Society, with ICRC support, began assessing the possibility of and developing a methodology for a new community-based programme on violence prevention aimed at youth.

Dissemination of IHL and the Fundamental Principles
To build up Nigerian Red Cross capacity to promote IHL and improve understanding of the Red Cross:

34 National Society branch secretaries, 8 zonal officers and 10 programme officers participated in 2 communication workshops;
152 senior National Society officials participated in 5 workshops on IHL and the Fundamental Principles.
KEY POINTS

In 2006, the ICRC:
- supported conflict-weary civilians in Casamance by improving access to water; supplied civilians with over 10,000 kg of rice seed, 38 bulls and agricultural materials; provided 10,000 people with access to health care by renovating/constructing 9 health facilities;
- provided 13,000 people in northern Guinea-Bissau with food and material assistance and supplied 5 health centres with essential drugs;
- provided the region’s national authorities with technical expertise on IHL implementation;
- briefed some 4,900 military and security service personnel in the region, including those designated for peacekeeping duty in various African countries, on IHL and the ICRC;
- produced IHL materials and distributed them in 50 Senegalese schools;
- helped the Senegalese Red Cross Society conduct sessions on cholera and malaria awareness for some 10,000 people and distribute 1,500 mosquito nets.

CONTEXT

With Senegal’s 2007 legislative and presidential elections fast approaching, tension between the government and the opposition continued to mount. The former prime minister, Idrissa Seck, was released from prison, where he had served seven months on charges of misappropriation of public funds and posing a threat to State security. He formed an opposition party and became a presidential candidate.

Various sectors such as energy, agriculture, fishing and employment were still reeling from the effects of a severe economic crisis. Strikes and protests seriously disrupted coursework in the country’s two public universities, with students demanding improved facilities and clashing with law enforcement agencies. To stem the tide of illegal migration, the Senegalese and Spanish authorities agreed to combat immigration regulations taking into account Spanish labour needs.

The implementation of the peace agreement between the Senegalese government and the Mouvement des Forces Démocratiques de la Casamance (MFDC) stalled. In March, there was a resurgence of intense fighting in the Casamance region and northern Guinea-Bissau. The fighting pitted a hard-line MFDC faction against the armed forces of Guinea-Bissau siding with the Senegalese government. After the two parties stopped fighting, MFDC factions continued to battle for territory in Fogny, in northern Casamance. This endangered security along Casamance’s border with Gambia and sent some 1,200 people fleeing into Gambia. In August, the Senegalese army, which had withdrawn from Bignona District in 2004, redeployed its troops there, leading to an intensification of clashes with the MFDC.

Landmines along roads were another source of insecurity. On 1 September, an ICRC delegate was killed and her three colleagues injured when their vehicle hit a landmine. In December, two people died during violent clashes between the MFDC and military mine-clearance units.

Reports abounded of banditry and other acts of violence along roads in northern Casamance. Oumar Lamine Badji, the president of the regional council of Ziguinchor, was killed by unidentified assailants in December.

At the end of 2006, some of the refugees in Gambia and IDPs in Fogny returned to their villages, and a few schools reopened.

Guinea-Bissau remained beset by social unrest. Protests by workers demanding salary arrears and strikes in the education and other sectors signalled a growing disenchantment with the gloomy political and economic situation. In the northern region bordering Casamance, where clashes broke out in March, relative normality returned as the year progressed.

In Gambia, several people, including military officers, politicians and businessmen, were detained following an attempt on...
21 March to overthrow the government of President Yahya Jammeh. He was re-elected for another five-year term in September.

In Mali, events such as armed attacks on the Kidal and Ménaka garrisons in May sparked fears of a Tuareg insurrection. The attacks caused some 4,500 people to flee the towns and seek refuge in Algeria and Mauritania. The Malian authorities subsequently embarked on peace talks with Tuareg leaders, leading to the conclusion of the Algiers Agreement in July.

In Niger, President Mamadou Tandja grappled with problems of corruption and governance. In some areas such as Diffa, intercommunal tensions lingered, fuelled by disputes over scarce natural resources.

**ICRC ACTION**

The ICRC continued to monitor the evolving political, social, security and humanitarian situation in the region. It carried out relief activities for IDP and resident populations affected by the flare-up of hostilities in northern Guinea-Bissau, along the Casamance border. In Casamance, the organization carried out assistance programmes comprising market gardening projects and the rehabilitation of water, sanitation and health facilities. The programmes were suspended in September following the fatal mine incident.

Delegates visited detainees in Gambia, Guinea-Bissau and Niger. Access to detainees in Gambia was denied following the coup attempt in March.

The ICRC continued to work in close collaboration with its traditional partners (national, regional and international authorities, government institutions, military authorities and academics) in promoting IHL. Cooperation with National Societies involved supporting local branches in increasing their capacities.

As in past years, the ICRC worked in coordination with other humanitarian organizations, notably UN agencies, while reaffirming its identity as a neutral, impartial and independent organization.

**CIVILIANS**

**Assistance in Casamance**

Although the situation in Casamance caused delays in implementing assistance programmes, civilians affected by the conflict received support in meeting their basic needs.

Water and sanitation projects were implemented to improve access to water in terms of quantity and quality for the population. These included the construction or renovation by the ICRC of 40 wells and boreholes, the installation of 30 water pumps and 10 irrigation systems for market gardening. Two technicians received training and tools to carry out repairs on hand pumps installed by the ICRC in communities since 2004.

- 13,000 people benefited from completed (10,500 people) and ongoing (2,500 people) water and sanitation projects
- Communities in Fogny, one of the regions hardest-hit by conflict, had improved access to primary health care following the restoration of health facilities by the ICRC. The programme concentrated on reconstructing and re-equipping the facilities and supplying them with staff, materials and essential drugs to sustain them or make them operational.

Community health workers and health staff, including matrons in ICRC-supported health facilities, attended courses to enhance their knowledge of primary health care, first aid and malaria-prevention methods. In addition, they helped sell mosquito nets treated with insecticide to women of childbearing age or with children, and also helped re-treat the nets. Planned activities were severely affected by the fighting in Fogny and Guinea-Bissau. For instance, the training of 18 community health workers in the management of childhood diseases was postponed.

Health posts/centres and maternity units assisted since 2004 continued to receive support. Five new ones were reconstructed and handed over to the authorities and the reconstruction of four others continued.

In the health centres supported by the ICRC, 3 of them on a regular basis, (catchment population of 113,000):

- 4,778 consultations (453 ante/post-natal, 4,325 curative, including 2,026 to women) were given;
- 1,218 vaccine doses were administered (983 to children aged five or under and 235 to women of childbearing age);
- 2 health posts provided with head nurses, midwives and other personnel;
- training of 4 midwives and 3 community-health workers under way in Djibidione and Sindian;
- 20 community-health workers/midwives received first-aid training.

The people of Casamance were supported by the ICRC in their efforts to revive their

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1. In Gambia, Guinea-Bissau and Niger
2. Food distributed in Guinea-Bissau; habitat structures benefited inmates in Niger; all other beneficiaries in Senegal
livelhoods and boost the local economy through market gardening. Supported since 2005, twenty-two community-based women’s groups growing onions, tomatoes, cabbage, aubergines and other vegetables continued to receive technical assistance, including training, supervision, monitoring and advice. The groups produced a total of 98,635 kg of vegetables, over 80% of which were sold. By November, group members had already started a fresh cycle of activities in nearly all of the 22 market gardens cultivated. Ten additional groups (2,174 people) started receiving support; which included fencing materials and farming tools (hoes, shovels and watering cans).

Additionally, 564 members of all 32 women’s groups attended training in market gardening techniques.

Villagers in 15 communities (4,824 people/525 households) received fishing kits, bulls and farm implements (ploughs and hoes) and rice seed to support their agricultural production. Despite disturbances in certain villages stirred up by rumours of renewed insecurity, the beneficiaries expressed satisfaction with the programme.

- 7,562 people benefited from agricultural/micro-economic initiatives

**Emergency assistance for civilians in conflict-affected border regions**

The fighting between the armed forces of Guinea-Bissau and a rebel faction of the MFDC in northern Guinea-Bissau caused the temporary displacement of thousands of people.

- 13,578 IDPs (4,706 households) received essential household items
- 3,945 people (522 households) from villages worst affected by the fighting received food assistance for six months; the assistance enabled beneficiaries to cope with a poor harvest

The population in northern Guinea-Bissau benefited from basic medical materials and medicines donated by the ICRC to six hospitals and health posts. Thirteen people injured in a mine explosion in north-western Guinea-Bissau were evacuated to Ziguinchor hospital; two of them were still being monitored by the ICRC at the end of 2006. Five other people were still being monitored by the ICRC at the end of 2006. Five other people were still being monitored by the ICRC.

An ICRC mission was carried out to the conflict-prone Diffa region of Niger in November to assess the humanitarian situation and establish contacts with the civil and military authorities and religious and traditional leaders there.

- 24 RCMs were collected and 92 distributed to civilians in the region, mainly in Senegal

**People deprived of their freedom**

In Guinea-Bissau, the ICRC obtained access to people arrested by the armed forces in connection with the conflict or held for reasons of State security. It thus visited and monitored 16 detainees. It engaged in dialogue with the military authorities to ensure that the detainees’ conditions of detention complied with internationally recognized standards. Individuals released from detention were given help in returning home, while those who remained in prison were offered the RCM service to communicate with their families. The conditions of detention of ordinary prisoners in two prisons were also closely monitored and any problems encountered, notably in the field of health, were raised with the authorities. Detainees received basic hygiene items.

In Gambia, the ICRC was denied access to all places of detention following the coup attempt on 21 March. By the end of 2006, there had been no progress in discussions between the authorities and the ICRC on the resumption of prison visits.

In northern Mali, following the events in Kidal and surrounding areas in May, the ICRC carried out a mission to the region and confirmed that the organization was well accepted by all the parties. Significantly, rebel forces guaranteed the ICRC access to any people they might detain in future.

In Niger, 1,800 detainees benefited from water and sanitation projects; materials such as soap, wheelbarrows, bleach, bows, buckets, rakes, shovels, boots and gloves procured for distribution to prisons to help improve hygiene conditions.

**Authorities**

**National authorities**

The region’s authorities and the ICRC maintained dialogue centring on the need for the countries that had not yet done so to ratify IHL treaties. The authorities were offered technical expertise in IHL implementation.

- in Niger, an emblem law adopted; in Mali, a bill on the emblem law drafted
- in Senegal, a law adopted on implementation of the Ottawa Convention; a bill on repression of war crimes and crimes against humanity put before the Council of Ministers
- in Mali and Niger, representatives of national and local authorities attended a workshop and seminars on IHL and the ICRC
- government authorities from a dozen countries in the region attended an IHL seminar jointly organized by the Economic Community of West African States and the ICRC

**International and regional authorities**

The Dakar-based African Commission on Human and Peoples’ Rights and the ICRC continued to enjoy good cooperation. During the Commission’s annual session, the ICRC gave a presentation on its mandate, activities and position on IDPs.
ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

Armed and security forces in the region continued to count on ICRC support in integrating IHL/international human rights law into their doctrine, training and operations and in enhancing their knowledge of the Movement.

- some 4,900 military/security service personnel in Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Niger and Senegal, including 3,200 designated for peacekeeping duties on the continent, attended sessions and conferences on IHL and the ICRC
- in Senegal, military authorities and units operating in Casamance familiarized with IHL and their obligations under it, and MFDC leaders informed about the ICRC and its activities
- measures to integrate IHL into military training and exercises adopted by Niger, and 1 officer attended an IHL course in San Remo
- IHL programmes continued to be developed by the Malian military authorities

CIVIL SOCIETY

Thousands of people were introduced to IHL by the ICRC during the World Social Forum in Bamako, Mali, in January.

- in Mali and Senegal, contacts broadened with religious leaders, and 300 copies of the IHL brochure Al-Ansani distributed to them

Schools

In Senegal, 22 teachers and other officials involved in the Exploring Humanitarian Law programme were trained. A supervisory committee was created, comprising representatives of the educational authorities, the ICRC and the Senegalese Red Cross. A pilot phase of the programme was subsequently conducted in 11 schools and later evaluated. The programme was set to continue in schools in 2007.

- schools in Senegal received 30,000 notebooks with humanitarian messages on the covers

Institutions of higher learning

University authorities in the region continued to receive support and encouragement in integrating IHL into university curricula.

- 6 lecturers from Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Niger and Senegal attended a pan-African IHL course in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso (see Abidjan)
- 15 members of students’ associations in 6 countries attended a sub-regional IHL workshop in Dakar
- 2 universities in Mali and Niger received IHL libraries

A multidisciplinary team from Niamey University submitted the findings of its study on the historical and socio-economic factors behind intercommunal conflict in an area south of Niamey in Niger. The team also made proposals for a plan of action to mitigate the suffering caused by such conflict among the most vulnerable population groups in the area.

In Mali, interest in IHL intensified among university students, as manifested by the preparation of five theses on IHL by students of law and other disciplines.

- 100 students and lecturers attended an IHL course and an IHL information session

RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT

The National Societies, the International Federation and the ICRC continued to cooperate closely in training and financial, technical and material support. ICRC cooperation with the National Society centred on an integrated approach for the training of volunteers, incorporating first aid, the promotion of IHL and the restoration of family links. The impact of the cooperation was particularly evident in the National Societies’ emergency preparedness as seen in their response during situations of heightened tension in the sub-region. The Gambia Red Cross Society focused on assisting civilians fleeing the fighting on the border with Senegal.

With ICRC support:

- 5 National Society volunteers trained in the use of the integrated approach; 117 volunteers from 3 National Societies retrained; 6 tracing and first-aid coordinators in Mali, Niger and Senegal trained; 40 volunteers in Casamance familiarized with IHL and the Movement;
- the National Societies of Guinea-Bissau and Senegal received first-aid equipment; 7 first-aid brigades set up and equipped in eastern Mali and northern Senegal;
- construction of the Mali Red Cross branch headquarters in Timbuktu progressed; in Senegal, the setting up of the Bignona branch volunteer centre encountered delays;
- 5 National Societies supported in organizing activities on IHL and HIV/AIDS awareness to mark World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day (8 May), activities involving local NGOs and authorities in Guinea-Bissau and the organization of a “humanitarian train” in Mali travelling from Bamako to Kayes with various stop-offs on the way;
- the Red Cross of Cape Verde conducted a campaign to raise awareness of hygiene and HIV/AIDS in 10 prisons;
- trained Red Cross volunteers supported in carrying out awareness campaigns on malaria and cholera prevention and in distributing mosquito nets; over 1 million people reached through the programme in Niger and 11,500 in Casamance.

The regional delegation’s training unit, created in 2005, organized courses on a series of topics, including presentation techniques, focusing on the staff of delegations in West Africa.

- some 220 personnel trained
In 2006, the ICRC:
- supported 18 health structures, including 16 rural health facilities in 3 provinces in Zimbabwe, providing staff training, medicines and equipment; supplied materials to improve waste management and sanitation facilities;
- supplied rural communities in Zimbabwe with spare parts so that 200 hand pumps could be repaired and maintained;
- raised awareness of IHL among young people taking part in Zimbabwe’s national youth service training programme, as well as among army and police officers;
- visited detainees in Botswana and Namibia arrested in connection with the 1999 uprising in the Caprivi Strip; arranged for almost 400 relatives to visit those held in Namibia;
- relayed, in cooperation with the region’s National Societies, thousands of RCMs between refugees and their families; sought the families of children and vulnerable people who had become separated from their relatives, helped them restore contact, and where possible and appropriate, reunited the families.

The Harare regional delegation has existed in its current form since 1981, although the ICRC has been present in some of the countries covered for much longer. It focuses on protecting and assisting civilians and visiting people deprived of their freedom in connection with political tensions. The delegation helps family members separated by armed conflict restore contact. It informs the authorities, the armed and security forces and the general public about IHL, human rights law and the ICRC’s mandate, and helps the region’s National Societies develop their operational capacities.

**CONTEXT**

In the countries covered by the Harare regional delegation, poverty, unemployment, HIV/AIDS and diseases such as malaria and tuberculosis continued to take a heavy toll on the population. Public services, in particular health and education, remained weak in most countries.

The political, economic and social climate in Zimbabwe further deteriorated in 2006. Inflation continued to rise, making life very difficult for most Zimbabweans, who could barely afford essentials such as food, transport, health, education, water and electricity, especially outside Harare. In September, trade union attempts to organize demonstrations against workers’ deteriorating living conditions were suppressed by the police. Rural council elections at the end of October saw the ruling party retain its majority.

The government passed a new law on land reform increasing its powers to take ownership of rural land. In an attempt to improve the productivity of the agricultural sector, it started offering land for 99-year leases and introduced a clause permitting it to repossess land in cases of confirmed low productivity. At the same time, further land seizures went ahead.

In Zambia, despite the booming copper trade, donor support and multilateral debt relief, poverty remained widespread. Food security was still fragile, especially in the southern province, which also suffered from seasonal floods. President Mwanawasa and the ruling party retained their positions following victories in presidential and parliamentary elections in September.

Zambia continued to host substantial numbers of refugees from across the continent, particularly from Angola, Burundi, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and Rwanda. The repatriation of refugees living in Zambia proceeded more slowly than planned, owing to temporary funding shortfalls and the reluctance of refugees to return home. At the beginning of December, a tripartite agreement to repatriate Congolese refugees was signed between the DRC, Zambia and UNHCR.

Mozambique also enjoyed economic growth and substantial donor support, but poverty remained widespread as the country strove to recover from the non-international armed conflict that ended in 1992. Although Botswana and Namibia struggled with a number of social and economic ills, they remained stable politically, while in Malawi political tensions calmed as the year progressed.
ICRC ACTION

In Zimbabwe, the ICRC regularly assessed the situation of the population in rural areas and, where necessary, distributed essential household items and food to some families affected by political violence. Programmes were initiated to provide health facilities with medical supplies, equipment and staff training and to improve their hygiene and waste management through the construction of new facilities. Rural communities were supplied with spare parts for the maintenance of water pumps.

The ICRC teamed up with the region’s National Societies and with refugee volunteers to operate the RCM and tracing services for refugees and detainees. Unaccompanied/separated minors and vulnerable adults continued to be registered. Efforts were made to locate their relatives and, where appropriate, to reunite them with their families.

ICRC delegates visited security detainees still being held in prisons in Botswana and Namibia in relation to the 1999 uprising in the Caprivi Strip and submitted the findings and recommendations confidentially to the relevant authorities in both countries. Some of those detained in Namibia received visits from their families, facilitated by the ICRC. Although the delegation ended its material support to the Zambian prison administration, it continued to call on the government to improve conditions of detention and encouraged representatives of the international community to support the government’s efforts. Delegates continued to visit Zambia’s six remaining security detainees.

The delegation maintained support to countries of the region in their efforts to implement IHL, organizing workshops for parliamentarians in Namibia and Zimbabwe. It developed contacts with the media and promoted the teaching of IHL in the region’s universities.

The ICRC continued to encourage the region’s armed and security forces to integrate IHL into their training and operations and supported the Zimbabwean armed forces’ efforts to instruct IHL. It also pursued cooperation with the Southern African Development Community’s regional peacekeeping training centre in Harare.

As in past years, the ICRC cooperated closely with the National Societies of the region, supporting programmes to restore family links, promote IHL and the Fundamental Principles, build emergency preparedness and provide assistance to those in need. In April, the ICRC closed its office in Namibia, established in 2000, as the situation had become sufficiently stable. It handed over tracing files to the National Office in Namibia, established in 2000, as the situation had become sufficiently stable. It handed over tracing files to the National Office in Namibia, established in 2000, as the situation had become sufficiently stable.

CIVILIANS

Assisting civilians in Zimbabwe

Delegates conducted several field missions in Zimbabwe to monitor the general situation in rural and urban areas, meeting the local authorities at provincial, district and village level. Some 400 displaced families in predominantly rural areas were given food and other supplies. The second part of the year saw an increase in the number of cases of political violence. The ICRC documented some of these cases and on occasion provided displaced people in Harare, Manicaland, Mashonaland East and Masvingo with food and other assistance for one month.

2,155 people provided with food and essential household items

To improve access to health care for rural populations, the delegation embarked on an integrated assistance programme. Thirty health facilities were assessed, of which 13 clinics and 3 rural hospitals in the districts of Makoni, Chivi and Tsholotsho (in the provinces of Manicaland, Masvingo and Matabeleland North respectively) were selected for inclusion in the programme. They received essential drugs, medical and non-medical consumables and basic equipment on a regular and ad hoc basis. Medical staff attended training sessions organized by the ICRC, including a six-day workshop on the integrated management of childhood illnesses for 21 nurses from 21 health facilities in Makoni. Staff were also supervised and their performance monitored during regular follow-up field visits.

CIVILIANS AND PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses)</th>
<th>CIVILIANS AND PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Detainees visited and monitored individually</td>
<td>Economic security, water and habitat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of visits carried out</td>
<td>Food</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of places of detention visited</td>
<td>Beneficiaries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tracing family links</td>
<td>Essential household items</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Red Cross messages (RCMs) and reunifications</td>
<td>Beneficiaries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RCMs collected</td>
<td>2,155</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RCMs distributed</td>
<td>Health</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tracing requests, including cases of missing persons</td>
<td>Health centres supported</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>People for whom a tracing request was newly registered</td>
<td>Structures</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tracing requests closed positively (persons located)</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tracing requests still being handled at 31 December 2006</td>
<td>Consultations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unaccompanied minors (UAMs) and separated children (SCs),</td>
<td>Patients</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>including unaccompanied demobilized child soldiers</td>
<td>102,997</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UAMs/SCs newly registered by the ICRC</td>
<td>Immunizations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UAMs/SCs cases still being handled at 31 December 2006</td>
<td>Activities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DOCUMENTS ISSUED</td>
<td>40,553</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>People to whom travel documents were issued</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. Botswana, Namibia and Zambia
2. Zimbabwe only, except for essential household items distributed to 162 detainees in Botswana, Namibia and Zambia
In the 16 ICRC-supported health facilities in rural areas (catchment population of some 180,000):

- 102,997 consultations given, including 15,172 ante- or postnatal consultations and 87,825 curative consultations (of which 31,603 for persons under 15 years old and 35,301 for women);
- 40,533 immunizations administered (33,032 to children aged 5 or under and 7,521 to women of childbearing age), including 11,420 polio immunizations (all for children aged 5 or under);
- 2,256 health education sessions conducted.

A further two clinics received ad hoc distributions of medical supplies.

Certain clinics were supplied with building materials to construct incinerators, refuse pits and latrines and thereby improve waste management and hygiene. The planned drilling of boreholes to improve the clinics’ water supply was postponed.

Rural communities were able to repair their water supply systems thanks to the provision of spare parts, carried out in conjunction with the District Development Fund, Zimbabwe’s rural water authority.

- 18,500 people to benefit from ongoing improvements to water supply, sanitation and waste management systems in 15 health facilities in Chivi, Makoni and Tsholotsho districts.
- 22,500 people in Chivi, Makoni and Tsholotsho set to benefit from the ongoing supply of parts for the repair of 200 hand pumps in their communities.

Restoring family links for refugees in the region

Refugees living in camps and elsewhere in the region were able to restore or maintain contact with their families through the RCM service, provided by the ICRC in conjunction with the National Societies of the region and refugee volunteers.

Unaccompanied/separated children and vulnerable adults and their dependants were assisted in locating their relatives, re-establishing contact with them and ultimately, where desired and feasible, were reunited with them. Since many refugees came from countries outside the region, such as Angola and the DRC, this often involved coordinating with other delegations and organizing for the repatriation of such children and adults so that they could be reunited with family in their home countries.

The delegation continued efforts to locate people for whom it had received tracing requests.

- 12,282 RCMs collected from and
- 8,737 RCMs distributed to people separated from their families, including
- 32 collected from and 4 distributed to unaccompanied/separated children
- 22 unaccompanied/separated children newly registered (19 in Zambia, 2 in Botswana, 1 in Zimbabwe); 105 cases still being handled (89 in Zambia, 6 each in Botswana and Zimbabwe, 4 in Namibia)
- new tracing requests registered for 19 people (8 females, 8 minors at the time of disappearance), of whom 14 in Zimbabwe and 5 in Zambia; 6 persons located; 228 cases (43 females, 33 minors at the time of disappearance) still being processed
- 16 people issued with ICRC travel documents (all in Zambia)

**PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM**

Detainees in Zambia suffered from inadequate nutrition, overcrowding and poor health care, with problems such as tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS remaining unaddressed. The ICRC continued to call the authorities’ attention to this state of affairs and encouraged them to make improvements. It also briefed representatives of the international community on the situation. The delegation continued to follow the cases of six security detainees in three places of detention in Zambia.

Namibians detained in connection with an uprising in the Caprivi Strip in 1999 were visited twice in Botswana and five times in Namibia. Their treatment and conditions of detention were assessed and findings and recommendations shared with the authorities concerned, both orally and through a number of working papers. The delegation repeatedly raised the detainees’ problematic legal situation with the authorities in both countries, but no solution had yet been found.

Where regular postal facilities were available, the RCM service was phased out, and detainees were instead provided with stamps and writing materials, enabling them to re-establish and maintain contact with their families. In Namibia, families of the majority of detainees held in connection with the uprising in the Caprivi Strip were assisted by the ICRC in making one visit to their relatives in prison (400 relatives visited in total).

- in Botswana, 24 detainees visited and monitored individually during 6 visits to 4 places of detention
- in Namibia, 132 detainees visited and monitored individually during 5 visits to 1 place of detention; 27 RCMs collected from and 20 RCMs distributed to detainees
- in Zambia, 6 detainees visited and monitored individually during 6 visits to 3 places of detention; 16 RCMs collected from and 3 RCMs distributed to detainees
- living conditions improved for 162 detainees through the distribution of clothing, toiletries and leisure items in all three countries

**AUTHORITIES**

The delegation targeted national parliaments in Namibia and Zimbabwe for awareness-raising sessions on the national implementation of IHL treaties. An additional platform to raise awareness was the 6th Annual Conference on National IHL Implementation held in Pretoria, South Africa, which provided an opportunity to rekindle interest in IHL.

With ICRC legal and technical support:

- Namibian parliamentarians attended an IHL implementation workshop in March;
- members of Zimbabwe’s Inter-Ministerial Committee on Human Rights and IHL, backed by the minister of defence, participated in a workshop in September with a view to restarting the implementation process;
- members of both houses of Zimbabwe’s parliament took part in a workshop on IHL implementation in October.

**ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS**

Armed forces in the region continued to cooperate with the ICRC on matters relating to IHL. In Zimbabwe, where IHL was already integrated into military training, the delegation focused its efforts on supporting the army’s own capacity to teach IHL.

- officers participating in the junior staff course and joint command course at the staff college attended IHL courses;
- junior officers and non-commissioned officers at the artillery school briefed on IHL.
The regional delegation continued to develop working relations with police and prison authorities in the region.

- 25 senior police officers from across Namibia, including some from a police paramilitary unit, took part in an eight-day train-the-trainer course on integrating international human rights law and humanitarian principles into policing and police training.
- 25 Botswana prison officers and officials took part in a similar train-the-trainer course in Gaborone.

Contacts with regional security organizations were also strengthened in order to promote the incorporation of IHL and humanitarian principles into new rules of engagement and training curricula, most notably at the Southern African Development Community’s regional peacekeeping training centre.

- in Zimbabwe, participants in 2 courses on peace-support operations and a course for military observers attended sessions on IHL.
- in Botswana, participants attending a six-day African Union workshop on doctrine for the incipient African Standby Force briefed on IHL.

CIVIL SOCIETY

The delegation sought to promote knowledge and acceptance of IHL and the ICRC’s activities among the general public and influential members of civil society by strengthening relations with the media and supporting the teaching of IHL in academic institutions.

- contacts developed with the media to elicit their assistance with the public dissemination of IHL and to gain their support for ICRC activities.
- in March and August, 1,600 young people learned about the ICRC and humanitarian principles at Zimbabwe’s youth camps; the country’s vocational training centres, in which the National Youth Service had recently begun teaching, also toured by the delegation.
- law students at Zimbabwe’s Midlands State University and University of Zimbabwe, and students of other relevant subjects at the latter, attended lectures on IHL.
- a national IHL moot court competition held to select a team to take part in the pan-African moot court competition in Arusha, United Republic of Tanzania, later in the year.
- 2 international law lecturers attended the advanced seminar on IHL organized in Pretoria, South Africa, in November.
- relations with the University of Zambia maintained and relations established with the Human Rights Centre of the University of Namibia, which received a collection of IHL reference books for its library.
- participants in a course on human rights organized by Namibia’s National Society for Human Rights briefed on IHL.

RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT

The National Societies of Botswana, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Zambia and Zimbabwe continued to benefit from ICRC support in developing their programmes to restore family links, respond to emergencies and promote IHL and the Fundamental Principles. The delegation also sought to reinforce the management capacities of the National Societies and to ensure that the Movement’s activities were well coordinated.

Ensuring effective tracing services
In March, the Namibian Red Cross took over responsibility for all pending tracing files. The Mozambique Red Cross Society was provided with extra funding to enable the expansion of its camp and social tracing activities. The National Societies of Namibia and Zambia continued to receive financial and material support for their tracing activities. The Botswana and Malawi Red Cross Societies continued to provide tracing services in Dukwi and Dzaleka refugee camps, respectively.

Enhancing disaster preparedness and response
The Zambia Red Cross Society received first-aid equipment and funds to cover volunteer incentives in preparation for September’s legislative and executive elections. The Zimbabwe Red Cross Society produced weekly radio broadcasts on first aid.

The National Societies’ high-frequency radio networks in Botswana, Namibia and Malawi were maintained and staff and volunteers trained in their use. The Mozambique Red Cross Society received a tool kit, spare parts and funds for radio maintenance work in the provinces.

Promoting IHL and the Fundamental Principles
On 8 May, the region’s National Societies marked World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day with a variety of events. In Malawi and Zimbabwe, this coincided with the National Societies’ 40th and 25th anniversaries respectively.

The National Societies’ activities were publicized through newsletters and brochures in Botswana, Namibia and Zambia and radio broadcasts in Namibia and Zimbabwe. Dissemination sessions were held for 30 patrons of school Red Cross clubs in Malawi, for the media in Zambia and for 60 junior military officers in Zimbabwe.

Movement cooperation
The delegation continued to coordinate its activities with the National Societies of the region, partner National Societies from elsewhere and the International Federation to ensure the harmonization of the Movement’s activities. Together with the International Federation, it helped National Societies to review their statutes to ensure consistency with Movement standards and to organize induction training for new board members.

With ICRC financial assistance, five legal advisers from the National Societies of Botswana, Malawi, Mozambique, Zambia and Zimbabwe, took part in the annual legal advisers’ meeting in Geneva, Switzerland, in September.
KEY POINTS

In 2006, the ICRC:
- in northern Kenya, delivered, together with the Kenyan Red Cross, food and essential household items to victims of armed violence, provided 6 medical facilities with supplies to treat the wounded and conducted a surgery seminar, its first ever in Kenya, for hospital staff;
- to improve economic security and thus ease communal tensions, provided 3,000 people with seeds and tools, treated 25,000 head of livestock against disease and built/upgraded 5 schools and a health centre in northern Kenya;
- built an innovative solar- and wind-powered reverse-osmosis unit to provide drinking water in Kenya's coastal district of Lamu;
- collected over 31,500 RCMs and distributed some 20,600 RCMs on behalf of refugees and their relatives and was following up the cases of 525 child refugees separated from their parents;
- to promote IHL, organized an eight-day competition that drew students from 12 African universities, assisted Djibouti in piloting the Exploring Humanitarian Law programme in its secondary schools and sponsored a Kenyan armed forces team to participate in an international competition abroad;
- through its Nairobi-based logistics centre and regional training unit, delivered relief supplies and provided specialist staff to support ICRC delegations worldwide in assisting people affected by conflict.

As stable States in a volatile region, Djibouti, Kenya and the United Republic of Tanzania were host to around 1 million refugees. During 2006, more Somalis arrived in Kenya, fleeing the instability in their country, while a sizeable number of Burundian and Congolese refugees were repatriated from the United Republic of Tanzania. UNHCR's voluntary repatriation programme for Sudanese refugees in Kenya was suspended for most of 2006 because of security, financial and logistics constraints.

Kenya, the United Republic of Tanzania and Djibouti all continued to play important diplomatic roles in East Africa. Kenya's capital Nairobi remained a regional hub for a large diplomatic and humanitarian community, Kenya and the United Republic of Tanzania frequently hosted peace negotiations, and the Tanzanian town of Arusha was the seat of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR). Djibouti was the headquarters of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development, which mediated the most recent Somali reconciliation process, and the base of the US Combined Joint Task Force – Horn of Africa. France also had a military presence in Djibouti.

On the domestic front, despite government-led disarmament and mediation initiatives, remote and rural regions of Kenya remained prone to ethnic clashes, usually over pasture, water and livestock. In addition, Kenya, and to a lesser extent the United Republic of Tanzania and Djibouti, suffered from the drought and floods that hit the Horn of Africa during 2006. Kenya also began gearing up for general elections scheduled for December 2007, while the government faced a series of allegations of corruption during 2006.

Following the 2005 Tanzanian general elections, political tensions lingered between the mainland and elements in Zanzibar calling for the islands' independence.
ICRC ACTION

The regional delegation in Nairobi continued to provide support services to ICRC delegations in Africa and occasionally further afield, while carrying out activities in Kenya, the United Republic of Tanzania and Djibouti.

In Kenya, the ICRC, in coordination with the Kenya Red Cross Society, delivered emergency aid to families displaced by ethnic clashes and provided medical facilities in the north with supplies to treat the wounded. To further boost surgical capacity, the delegation conducted its first ever surgery seminar in Kenya, attended by hospital staff working in clash-prone northern districts. In parallel, the ICRC fostered dialogue with the civil and military authorities on the need to protect civilians from armed attacks. It also carried out small-scale projects to improve economic security and thus ease community tensions in both north-western Kenya and the southern coastal district of Lamu. In December, the delegation held a round-table in Nairobi for 24 representatives of donor countries, UN agencies and NGOs to discuss strategies to help livestock owners in the Horn of Africa survive crises, using as a basis the ICRC’s 2005 comprehensive regional livestock study.

The ICRC’s Zanzibar office, which was opened in August 2005, closed in March 2006 after the election-related violence subsided.

The delegation continued, however, to monitor the situation in the islands and run its longstanding project with the Tanzania Red Cross National Society to improve sanitation in poorer areas prone to outbreaks of disease. It also initiated a small-scale sanitation project in the impoverished Djibouti town suburb of Balbela to support the health programme of the International Federation and the Red Crescent Society of Djibouti.

The tracing and RCM services were maintained to enable refugees in all three countries to communicate with their families. The priority remained to reunite child refugees with their families, wherever desired and possible.

The ICRC continued to monitor the treatment and living conditions of security detainees held in Gabode prison in Djibouti and in the UN detention facility in Arusha in connection with the ICTR.

Longstanding programmes to promote IHL focused on assisting the authorities in the region in integrating IHL into their domestic legislation, helping the armed forces reinforce their IHL training programmes and supporting institutes of higher education in developing IHL courses. A number of regional IHL events were organized which gave governments, armed forces, academics and humanitarian organizations the opportunity to share their experiences and broaden their expertise.

The three National Societies received a wide range of support to develop their relief, tracing and communication programmes. This support over the years contributed to the effective response of the Kenyan Red Cross in helping victims of drought, floods and clashes.

In parallel, the Nairobi logistics centre continued to procure and deliver relief goods and other supplies to ICRC delegations in and beyond the region, using the most efficient and cost-effective means. With upgraded computer software, the centre was able to track more efficiently the purchase, storage and delivery of stock. Similarly, the regional training unit developed and coordinated ICRC strategy and provided delegations with specialist advice, training and field support, covering the full range of ICRC activities.

CIVILIANS

Providing emergency aid in Kenya
When ethnic violence broke out in November in Nairobi and Nakuru district, displaced families set up temporary homes with shelter materials and essential household items provided by the ICRC and distributed by the National Society. In December, IDPs uprooted by clashes between the Borana and Gabra clans in the northern district of Marsabit received a one-month food ration, delivered by the
ICRC and the Kenyan Red Cross, to help them regain a measure of self-sufficiency.

- 12,000 IDPs (2,000 households) provided with food
- 12,100 IDPs provided with essential household items

Easing community tensions in Kenya

From its office in Turkwel, the ICRC continued to develop a small-scale assistance programme aimed at relieving longstanding tensions between rival communities at the boundary of the South Turkana and West Pokot districts (population 20,000) in north-western Kenya. This was a remote and drought-prone area, where clashes over water, pasture and cattle were frequent. The village of Orwa (West Pokot) built a four-room school and the village of Lorogon (South Turkana) added four rooms to its school, with the ICRC supplying the materials and expertise. The children, many of them displaced or orphaned by ethnic clashes, had been attending classes under trees. Another primary school built by the ICRC in 2005 received 50 mattresses and 100 blankets to accommodate some 100 children from semi-nomadic families who wanted to attend classes. To help boost crop production, around 250 families in each district were given seeds and tools at the onset of the April planting season, but the harvest was limited because of the drought and floods.

While carrying out the projects, ICRC field teams collected information about alleged incidents of violence committed against the population and, where necessary, took up the allegations with the relevant parties. Communities also took part in culturally adapted presentations on humanitarian norms, IHL and the Movement.

In the Lokichokio district in the extreme north-west of Kenya, the Turkana population and the ICRC had been working together since 1999 on small-scale projects to improve community infrastructure and economic conditions. People in this semi-arid region had long struggled with poverty and deadly cattle raids. Before the ICRC closed down its Lokichokio sub-delegation at the end of June (see Sudan), local animal-health workers and the ICRC together treated 24,000 sheep and goats against parasites, communities took over three primary schools and a maternity wing in a health centre, all built or upgraded by the ICRC, and Kakuma Mission Hospital and Lokichokio army camp, which also treated civilians free of charge, were provided with medical supplies and equipment.

In Lamu, Kenya’s last coastal district before the Somali border, poor access to drinking water was a constant source of community tension. On Lamu’s Pate island, where the water was extremely saline, the inhabitants of Kizingitini were set to benefit from the ICRC’s construction of an innovative wind- and solar-powered reverse-osmosis water production unit. After final tests, the system was scheduled to start producing around 4,000–5,000 litres of drinking water daily from January 2007. In Faza, Pate island’s administrative centre, 490 pupils had access to drinking water from a rainwater catchment system built by the ICRC on the roof of the primary school. Plans were also under way to build a manual desalination unit in Faza, as conditions were not suitable for a wind turbine.

Improving public health

After a cholera outbreak in Zanzibar (Pemba and Unguja islands) in 1999, the ICRC and the Tanzanian Red Cross began working to improve water and sanitation facilities on the islands, primarily in remote villages and schools. During 2006, a total of 12 wells and 10 blocks of latrines were built. To boost technical skills and ensure that the facilities were self-sustaining, Zanzibar’s water authorities and the ICRC conducted water-management courses for staff of the water and urban planning departments and held sessions for village caretakers in Pemba on the maintenance of water facilities.

- 5,300 people on Pemba island and 7,040 on Unguja island benefited from water/sanitation projects

In a new ICRC project initiated in the suburbs of Djibouti town, nine women’s associations were assisted in rehabilitating household latrines to improve sanitation in the impoverished sector 9 of Balbela district. The project complemented a health programme carried out by the International Federation and the Red Crescent Society of Djibouti.

- 1,500 people benefited from the rehabilitation of 98 latrines

Restoring family links

Refugees in Kenya, the United Republic of Tanzania and Djibouti continued to locate and communicate with relatives through the tracing and RCM services. The network was run by the ICRC in all 12 refugee camps along the western border of the United Republic of Tanzania and in the three refugee camps in Djibouti, and by the National Society, with ICRC support, in Dadaab and Kakuma camps in northern Kenya. Somali refugees could also have the names of relatives sought broadcast on the BBC Somali Service’s Missing Persons radio programme, sponsored by the ICRC. At their request, refugees accepted for resettlement in third countries were issued with the necessary travel documents.

In Kenya and the United Republic of Tanzania, child refugees who were separated from their parents were able to contact their families through RCMs and be reunited with them, when the situation in their home country allowed and provided it was in the child’s best interests. Given the ongoing repatriation of Burundian, Congolese, Rwandan and Sudanese refugees over 2006, the ICRC worked closely with UNHCR and NGOs to share information about such children and establish clear guidelines on their registration and follow-up. About 50% of the Sudanese child refugees registered by the ICRC in Kakuma camp restored contact with their families through RCMs, but most opted, with their families’ consent, to complete their studies before returning home.

- 10,557 RCMs collected and 6,277 RCMs distributed to civilians in Kenya, including 156 from and 212 to unaccompanied/separated children, 20,224 and 13,537 in the United Republic of Tanzania, including 100 from and 148 to unaccompanied/separated children, and 653 and 761 in Djibouti; these included 3 RCMs distributed to families of detainees held in the Bagram Theater Internment Facility in Afghanistan and the Guantanamo Bay Naval Station in Cuba, and 3 collected for delivery to the detainees
- new tracing requests registered for 126 people (59 females; 50 minors at the time of disappearance), of whom 111 in Kenya and 15 in the United Republic of Tanzania; 158 people located; 923 people (392 females, 153 minors at the time of disappearance) still being sought
WOUNDED AND SICK

Treating the weapon-wounded
Unlike the rest of Kenya, most district hospitals and clinics in the north had neither the staff nor supplies to cope with an influx of weapon-wounded. For this reason, Marsabit’s district hospital and Sololo Mission hospital in Moyale district received surgical supplies from the ICRC and four dispensaries in Marsabit district were topped up with dressing materials to treat people wounded during tribal clashes. To further boost the surgical capacity in the north, 18 Kenyan surgeons, doctors, anaesthetists and nurses working in hospitals in clash-prone districts participated in a four-day seminar on general surgery held at the ICRC’s Lopiding hospital in Lokichokio. This was the first such event organized by the ICRC in Kenya. As planned, the Kenyan Health Ministry took over Lopiding hospital in June 2006 to run as a district hospital (see Sudan).

In the Zanzibar archipelago, the Health Ministry and a private hospital received the surgical supplies remaining from the ICRC’s stock to treat people injured during the 2005 election-related unrest.

AUTHORITIES

Ratifying and implementing IHL treaties
Both the Kenyan and Tanzanian authorities renewed cooperation with the ICRC on the ratification and implementation of IHL treaties, after focusing their respective energies in 2005 on the referendum on the constitution and general elections.

In April, members of Kenya’s national IHL committee participated in an ICRC workshop on the implementation of the Biological, Chemical and Conventional Weapons conventions. Shortly after, the committee drafted the relevant domestic legislation and submitted it to the attorney general. By year-end, the bills had not yet been passed owing to a backlog of draft laws before parliament.

Further to the United Republic of Tanzania’s expressed interest in setting up an IHL committee, key government officials attended ICRC presentations on the work of such a body, and in June Tanzanian and Kenyan government representatives took part in a regional seminar on IHL implementation (see Pretoria). During 2006, the Tanzanian government established an interim National Authority responsible for incorporating the provisions of the 1997 Chemical Weapons Convention into national law and hosted the annual meeting of African States party to the treaty.

At the local level, around 40 civil servants in Kenya’s clash-prone Moyale district attended IHL presentations.

ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

IHL for the armed forces and police
The Kenyan and Tanzanian armed forces and police continued to work with the ICRC to develop courses on IHL and human rights standards at their training centres and to integrate those subjects into all training programmes, doctrine and operations. In Djibouti, the commander-in-chief of the army and the ICRC agreed to initiate a programme aimed at integrating IHL into all regimental training.

in Djibouti, 26 armed forces and gendarmerie officers and non-commissioned officers participated in a nine-day IHL course, as part of an IHL instructor’s training programme at the Military Academy

Kenya’s winning team at the ICRC’s 2005 East Africa IHL military competition sponsored to take part in the international competition in San Remo

some 1,600 Kenyan military, security and police personnel and 40 high-ranking Tanzanian armed forces officers attended IHL presentations in their countries

over 300 armed forces officers from various African countries attended IHL lectures at Kenya’s Peace Support Training Centre

at an evaluation workshop, Kenyan police agreed on measures to improve training on human rights standards

Tanzanian police officer sponsored to participate in an IHL seminar abroad

Other weapon bearers
In a new initiative aimed at reducing deadly cattle raids, on market days rival Pokot and Turkana communities in northern Kenya were shown an ICRC video portraying two fictional groups who learned to share resources through community mediation. This was followed by a community discussion.

CIVIL SOCIETY

Promoting IHL among opinion-makers
The media and academics had a strong influence on public opinion in the region and so were important relays for the ICRC in raising awareness of IHL and the plight of Africans affected by conflict. With ICRC input, four Kenyan institutes of higher learning and Dar es Salaam University taught IHL, and Djibouti began introducing the ICRC’s Exploring Humanitarian Law programme in secondary schools. The international and national organizations with regional bases in Nairobi or working in refugee camps were also invited to events to explore the relevance of IHL in their work.

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

In the United Republic of Tanzania, the ICRC monitored the treatment and living conditions of detainees held under the authority of the ICTR in the UN detention facility in Arusha and also visited those who had been acquitted and were living in the UN’s safe house. In Djibouti, it visited security detainees in Gabode prison, the country’s only civilian detention facility. After detention visits, the authorities were informed, in confidence, of the ICRC’s findings and recommendations. Detainees could exchange news with their families through RCMs, and inmates in Gabode prison benefited from monthly supplies of soap and cleaning agents and the installation of kerosene cookers in the prison kitchen.

in the United Republic of Tanzania, the cases of 63 detainees and former detainees, including 1 female, monitored individually during 3 visits to 1 detention facility and 1 safe house

in Djibouti, 484 detainees visited, 9 of them monitored individually, including 7 newly registered, during 3 visits to 1 place of detention

60 RCMs collected from and 124 RCMs distributed to detainees in the United Republic of Tanzania and 26 RCMs collected from detainees in Djibouti

88 unaccompanied/separated children newly registered, all in the United Republic of Tanzania; 21 reunited with their families; 358 cases of such children in Kenya and 167 in the United Republic of Tanzania still being handled

29 refugees in Kenya issued with an ICRC travel document

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national and international media
provided with press releases, briefings, presentations and field trips

at a round-table in Nairobi, 23 lecturers from East African universities agreed on ways to harmonize and improve IHL teaching

36 students from 12 universities in 9 African countries competed in the annual IHL competition, an eight-day event held in Arusha with the ICTR and won by Nairobi University

some 50 students from 8 East African universities participated in an IHL essay competition

Djibouti piloted the Exploring Humanitarian Law programme in 3 secondary schools, with 25 teachers trained in the teaching of the programme

UN and NGO policy-makers and field workers participated in a week-long course in Arusha on IHL, its practical application and new developments, and in a specialized course in Mombasa on IHL and humanitarian protection issues

to mark International Women's Day, 12 representatives of Kenyan NGOs took part in a half-day seminar on the protection afforded women by IHL in times of armed conflict

Tanzanian NGOs attended a one-day seminar on IHL.

**RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT**

The National Societies in the region received ICRC funds, materials, training, logistics back-up and technical advice to strengthen their relief and tracing activities and the promotion of IHL and the Movement.

As the country’s national disaster response coordinator, the Kenyan Red Cross carried out major relief operations in 2006. With ICRC support, the National Society:

- provided emergency aid to victims of drought, floods and internal armed violence;
- ran the tracing and RCM network in Dadaab and Kakuma refugee camps, holding 3 tracing seminars for volunteers;
- covered the salaries of 7 staff members responsible for relief, tracing and dissemination activities;
- conducted 5 courses for staff in clash-prone areas that combined training in the Safer Access approach, emergency response and dissemination;
- regularly convened Movement coordination meetings in clash-prone northern areas.

Tanzanian Red Cross branches in the Zanzibar archipelago had developed proven first-aid skills, and the Lake Victoria branches were building up this capacity. With ICRC support, the National Society:

- covered the salaries of the Zanzibar branch head and mainland dissemination officer;
- conducted 4 courses for branch staff around Lake Victoria that combined training in the Safer Access approach, emergency response and dissemination;
- conducted a dissemination seminar for mainland volunteers and organized a one-day IHL event in Dar es Salaam for the media.

The Djibouti Red Crescent, with Movement support, was rebuilding its infrastructure and activities. With ICRC support, the National Society:

- held a general assembly and adopted new statutes conforming to Movement standards;
- covered the salaries of disaster management, dissemination and finance officers;
- held 3 dissemination sessions for volunteers and gave IHL presentations at 6 schools.
In 2006, the ICRC:
- suspended the structural support programme in prisons in Madagascar, while intensifying efforts to engage with some members of the international community who could convince the authorities to improve detention conditions and in particular to address food shortages;
- visited detainees in Lesotho, monitored the recently introduced, simplified procedure for the release of terminally ill detainees and provided financial support (up until the end of the year) to the HIV/AIDS project at the Maseru Central Correctional Institution;
- made an official offer of services to the government of Swaziland to visit detainees in accordance with standard ICRC procedures;
- helped set up national IHL committees in Madagascar, South Africa and Swaziland;
- assisted with the reform of the South African Red Cross Society’s programme to restore family links and with the extension of the programme’s coverage in three main provinces;
- provided expertise and logistical and financial assistance in the launch of an African Yearbook on International Humanitarian Law.

The Pretoria regional delegation has existed in its present form since 1995. It keeps a close eye on the domestic situation in the countries covered and helps refugees and asylum seekers restore family links severed by conflict. It promotes ratification of IHL treaties and their national implementation and encourages the incorporation of IHL into military and police training and into secondary school and university curricula. The ICRC supports the region’s National Societies, in cooperation with the International Federation. The ICRC visits detainees in the Comoros, Lesotho and Madagascar.

**CONTEXT**

The political situation in South Africa remained relatively stable throughout the year despite tensions between members of the tripartite alliance, namely the African National Congress (ANC), the South African Communist Party and the Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU), and possible internal splits within the ANC and COSATU. The ANC dominated municipal elections in March, taking 66% of the vote and most of the nine provinces. Economically the country was stable, although a three-month strike by security guards caused widespread disruption, with clashes between strikers and non-strikers resulting in scores of casualties.

In January, Lesotho’s minister of foreign affairs was shot and suffered minor injuries, raising concern over the potential for political violence ahead of the general elections, planned for February 2007. The ruling Lesotho Congress for Democracy faced a weakened opposition after the Basotho National Party split.

In Madagascar and Seychelles, incumbent presidents Marc Ravalomanana and James Michel saw off weak opposition to win elections outright. In the Comoros, in the first peaceful change of power in the country’s post-independence history, Ahmed Abdallah Mohamed Sambi was elected president in May with 58% of the vote. In Mauritius, the position of Prime Minister Navin Ramgoolam and his Social Alliance party was strengthened by fractures within the opposition alliance. All four countries faced difficult economic situations, with high import prices, especially for petroleum, and low global prices for key exports, such as vanilla and sugar.
ICRC ACTION

The ICRC continued to visit prisons in Madagascar, monitoring both the individual cases of security detainees and general detention conditions. Early in the year, the mission stepped up its dialogue with the presidency, senior members of the government and the prison administration on the need to address overcrowding and the lack of food in many facilities. In May, in view of the lack of improvement in detention conditions, the ICRC suspended its structural support programme in prisons. It focused its efforts on engaging with some members of the international community who could convince the Malagasy government to ensure that detention conditions met internationally recognized standards. In June, the government established a presidential taskforce to address prison overcrowding and food shortages, and allocated funding to improve the supply of food to the prisons. The ICRC planned to verify the situation in the prisons in the first quarter of 2007, and then consider whether the necessary conditions had been met for it to resume its structural support to the prison administration.

In Lesotho, the ICRC continued to visit detainees falling within its mandate, assess detention conditions and inform the authorities of its findings and recommendations, encouraging them to continue their efforts to improve conditions in prisons. In accordance with the agreement signed last year with the Lesotho Planned Parenthood Association, until the end of December 2006, the ICRC provided financial support to a Human Rights programme in the Maseru Central Correctional Institution (MCCI) carried out by the Association and the Ministry of Justice. The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria indicated that it would support the programme in 2007.

Together with the National Society, the delegation reinforced and extended the tracing and RCM services to ensure that refugees and asylum seekers in South Africa did not lose contact with their families. Upon request, it provided travel documents to those accepted for resettlement in third countries.

The delegation continued to pursue efforts to improve awareness of and compliance with IHL, maintaining a dialogue with the region’s authorities on accession to and implementation of IHL instruments. In Madagascar, South Africa and Swaziland, with ICRC support, national IHL committees met for the first time.

As part of ongoing efforts to support the region’s armed and police forces in incorporating IHL and human rights into their doctrine and training, officers from across the region were briefed at numerous seminars and workshops.

The ICRC also carried out activities to raise awareness of issues relating to IHL among the region’s media, leaders, think-tanks, higher education establishments, NGOs and general public. Such activities included annual lectures on the ICRC’s mission, mandate and activities to journalism students at the Tshwane University of Technology and meetings with Islamic leaders in the Comoros and South Africa. Teaching of the Exploring Humanitarian Law programme, which aims to introduce secondary school students to humanitarian principles, continued to advance, with the Comoros, Mauritius, Seychelles and South Africa all at various stages of implementation.

National Societies in the region continued to receive ICRC support to carry out their emergency response, tracing and communication programmes and revise their statutes to conform with Movement standards.

CIVILIANS

Refugees and asylum seekers in South Africa were able to maintain contact with their relatives in other countries using the tracing and RCM services offered by the ICRC and the South African Red Cross Society. National Society tracing personnel received ongoing training in order to improve and extend the network. To enable refugees and asylum seekers to resettle abroad, the ICRC issued them with travel documents, at the request of various embassies and UNHCR.

To improve awareness of tracing and family-links services, leaders of refugee and asylum seeker communities were briefed by the ICRC and the South African Red Cross at information sessions in Eastern Cape and KwaZulu Natal provinces. To further increase the use of these services, government departments, UNHCR and other organizations working with refugees were also briefed on them at an official meeting.

In Swaziland, refugees and asylum seekers were able to use the tracing and RCM services offered by the National Society. The ICRC continued to support and liaise with the Baphalali Swaziland Red Cross Society tracing officer, whom it had trained in 2005.
PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

The ICRC visited detainees in Lesotho and Madagascar, monitored detention conditions and held detailed discussions with the authorities about its findings and recommendations.

In Madagascar, the ICRC followed the cases of security detainees individually and monitored conditions in places of detention with a combined population of over 17,500 inmates (this figure decreased following a presidential pardon in June 2006). Particular attention was paid to the specific problems of malnutrition and overcrowding. The ICRC discussed its findings and recommendations at presidential level in January and delegates stepped up contact with the minister for justice and other senior government officials, as well as prison administrators at the local, regional and national level. Conditions in prisons, however, did not improve, and in May, the ICRC decided to suspend its structural support for the Malagasy prison administration, while intensifying efforts to engage with some members of the international community who could convince the Malagasy government to ensure that detention conditions met internationally recognized standards.

Following the creation of a presidential taskforce in June, the government committed itself to addressing food shortages and overcrowding, allocating USD 500,000 to the Ministry of Justice for the penitentiary administration to ensure food delivery to all prisons until the end of the year. However, the transfer of this budget was delayed by several months. The ICRC planned to verify the situation in the prisons in the first quarter of 2007, and then consider whether the necessary conditions had been met for it to resume its structural support to the prison administration.

In Lesotho, the ICRC carried out four visits to the MCCCI, following up the cases of 11 people still detained in connection with the armed conflict in 1998. To maintain general standards of health and welfare, inmates were provided with hygiene items. Following discussions with the ICRC, the authorities took steps to improve detention conditions.

HIV/AIDS continued to be a major problem in Lesotho prisons. Inmates and staff of the MCCCI were able to access HIV/AIDS-awareness sessions and to receive counselling and testing on a voluntary basis, thanks to a programme initiated in July 2005 and run by the Ministry of Justice and the Lesotho Planned Parenthood Association with financial support from the ICRC. The ICRC supported the programme until the end of 2006 and raised awareness among potential donors and the government of the need to continue the programme after the ICRC’s withdrawal. In December 2006, the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria indicated that it would support the programme in 2007.

The inmates also benefited from the implementation of a number of other measures initiated by the authorities, following discussions with the ICRC, including condom distribution, simplified procedures for the release of terminally ill detainees and the provision of required medical staff.

In Swaziland, following the arrest of several members of the opposition People’s United Democratic Movement between December 2005 and January 2006, the ICRC made an official offer of services to the government in January to visit detainees according to standard ICRC procedures. At a meeting in April, the prime minister informed the ICRC that the time was not appropriate, as the people concerned had been released on bail, but expressed interest for the future.

ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

The delegation continued to offer armed and security forces across the region assistance with their efforts to integrate IHL and humanitarian principles into doctrine, training and procedures.

In Pretoria, 40 senior armed forces officers were briefed on the ICRC’s position on civil-military cooperation and neutral and independent humanitarian action at a regional seminar organized by the African Centre for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes (ACCORD) and the South African National War College; 35 female peacekeepers were briefed on the same topics at another seminar organized by ACCORD.

Four hundred South African National Defence Force (SANDF) troops departing for peace-support operations in Burundi, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Sudan were briefed on the application of IHL in those contexts and on the ICRC in general.

High-ranking SANDF officers were briefed on IHL at a seminar organized with the South African Department of Defence.

AUTHORITIES

The governments of Madagascar, South Africa and Swaziland set up national IHL committees, with ICRC support. In the Comoros, the government replaced the national IHL committee with an IHL focal point.
In Madagascar, the Defence Ministry’s IHL committee continued to integrate IHL into armed forces training, with ICRC financial support, and provisions were made to establish a new office for the dissemination of IHL.

Senior police officers from 18 African countries participated in an ICRC-organized regional workshop in Pretoria on the implementation of IHL and human rights law within police conduct and training.

High-ranking police officers in Lesotho took part in IHL and human rights law training as part of an initiative to modernize the force; Mauritius appointed a police officer to liaise with the ICRC on similarly-themed training programmes.

CIVIL SOCIETY

Contacts were strengthened with key civil society sectors in order to increase public awareness of humanitarian issues and support for the activities of the ICRC. To ensure that young people learnt about IHL, the delegation promoted its teaching in schools, through the Exploring Humanitarian Law programme, and in universities by supporting a regional network of IHL lecturers.

In South Africa, journalists were provided with press releases, newsletters and interviews, and think-tanks were briefed on IHL and the ICRC. Islamic organizations in the Comoros and South Africa were contacted in order to explain the mandate and work of the ICRC and to improve the delegation’s understanding of Islam in those countries.

In South Africa, teaching of the Exploring Humanitarian Law programme was consolidated within identified “high-risk” schools (schools with young offenders or with drug or crime problems), while in Seychelles, the National Institute of Education continued with the programme’s implementation. A pilot for the programme sparked interest among students and teachers in the Comoros and drew promises of support from the education authorities. In Mauritius, the Ministry of Education made preparations to launch a pilot project in 2007.

128 teachers from 64 schools in Mauritius received training in the Exploring Humanitarian Law programme from 7 international instructors.

Teams of South African students participated in IHL competitions in Belgrade, Serbia, and Arusha, United Republic of Tanzania (see Belgrade and Nairobi). Legal practitioners, students and academics attended a one-day IHL seminar at the University of Mauritius in November.

The African Yearbook on International Humanitarian Law, an independent academic journal, was launched with financial and technical support from the ICRC.

Journalism students participated in lectures on IHL and the ICRC at the Tshwane University of Technology; contact was made with the Institute for the Advancement of Journalism regarding an initiative to teach IHL to practising journalists from across southern Africa.

- lecturers at 12 universities in South Africa and 5 elsewhere in the region received teaching materials and support to improve their knowledge and skills
- representatives from these institutions attended the 6th annual IHL teachers’ meeting in Pretoria
- 30 academics from across Africa attended an advanced seminar on IHL in Pretoria
- 22 people from countries worldwide participated in the 9th Health Emergencies in Large Populations (H.E.L.P.) course in Pretoria

RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT

National Societies in the region continued to receive funds, materials, training and technical expertise to enhance their programmes to respond to emergencies, carry out tracing and RCM activities and promote IHL and the Fundamental Principles.

With ICRC support:

- National Societies in the Comoros, Seychelles and Swaziland provided personnel with emergency response training, including in the Safer Access approach, and first-aid materials ahead of domestic elections;
- the South African Red Cross Society extended its tracing network in 3 key provinces;
- National Society staff attended a five-day regional workshop on dissemination;
- National Societies held dissemination sessions for their personnel and the general public and national competitions and events to mark World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day, produced relevant training materials, broadcast radio shows, distributed newsletters and used the Internet to promote IHL and the Fundamental Principles and the red crystal emblem;
- National Societies in the Comoros, Lesotho, Madagascar and South Africa were revising their statutes to conform with Movement standards;
- together with support from the International Federation, the Malagasy Red Cross Society, which was struggling with internal problems, held elections and started an internal reorganization.

The ICRC, the International Federation and the French Red Cross-led Plate-forme d’Intervention Régionale pour l’Océan Indien continued to coordinate in order to harmonize programmes and activities throughout the region.
KEY POINTS

In 2006, the ICRC:
- significantly increased its activities in the conflict-affected north of the CAR, opening a new office in Paoua, and appealed in July for an additional CHF 1.72 million to fund the expansion;
- in the north of the CAR, provided 50,000 IDPs with relief goods, took up with the relevant parties to the conflict documented allegations of abuses committed by weapon bearers and initiated IHL sessions for troops;
- increased visits to detention facilities in the CAR and provided emergency food rations and medical care to detainees in Bossangoa prison;
- from its new office in Bata in Equatorial Guinea, developed a more consistent dialogue with the authorities about its detention-related activities and conducted its first ever presentation in the country on IHL and detention conditions, attended by some 400 police officers;
- organized its first regional workshop on IHL implementation, attended by government legal advisers from 5 Central African countries, and held a day-long IHL exercise for 150 armed forces officers from 11 Central African countries as part of the Reinforcement of African Peacekeeping Capabilities (RECAMP) V initiative;
- helped the CAR Red Cross rebuild its northern branches, especially their relief activities, and assisted the Cameroonian Red Cross in establishing an emergency response plan in the event of any spillover effects from the conflicts in the CAR and Chad.

CONTEXT

The Central African Republic (CAR) remained mired in extreme poverty, while the north of the country suffered a resurgence of armed violence. During 2006, the opposition Armée Populaire pour la Restauration de la République et de la Démocratie launched increasingly frequent attacks in the north-west of the CAR. The government countered by deploying more troops to the region and arresting people in connection with State security. Civilians were often targeted in the fighting. Tens of thousands of people were forced to flee their homes and take shelter nearby or seek refuge in Chad or Cameroon. In November, another armed group, the Union des Forces Démocratiques pour le Rassemblement, seized several towns in the north-east bordering Sudan, but were repelled by the army, backed by France and the Multinational Force in the CAR (FOMUC), which was under the command of the Central African Economic and Monetary Community (CEMAC).

Following decades of political instability, the CAR had little public infrastructure and suffered from massive unemployment and frequent public sector strikes. This, combined with the resurgence of violence, put off foreign investors, further hampering economic recovery. Renewed financial support from the international community at year-end boosted the CAR’s chances of qualifying for external debt relief under the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) initiative.

The ICRC set up its Yaoundé regional delegation in 1992 but has been working in the region since 1972. It monitors the domestic situation in the countries covered, visits security detainees and restores family links for refugees. In the CAR, it protects and assists people affected by internal armed violence and rehabilitates water systems neglected or damaged during long-term political instability. Throughout the region, it pursues long-standing programmes to spread knowledge of IHL among the authorities, armed forces and academic institutions and supports the development of the National Societies.

EXPENDITURE (IN KCHF)

Protection 1,373
Assistance 3,039
Prevention 1,565
Cooperation with National Societies 1,359
General -

7,337

of which: Overheads 448

IMPLEMENTATION RATE

Expenditure/yearly budget 116%

PERSONNEL

11 expatriates
45 national staff (daily workers not included)

The ICRC set up its Yaoundé regional delegation in 1992 but has been working in the region since 1972. It monitors the domestic situation in the countries covered, visits security detainees and restores family links for refugees. In the CAR, it protects and assists people affected by internal armed violence and rehabilitates water systems neglected or damaged during long-term political instability. Throughout the region, it pursues long-standing programmes to spread knowledge of IHL among the authorities, armed forces and academic institutions and supports the development of the National Societies.

EXPENDITURE (IN KCHF)

Protection 1,373
Assistance 3,039
Prevention 1,565
Cooperation with National Societies 1,359
General -

7,337

of which: Overheads 448

IMPLEMENTATION RATE

Expenditure/yearly budget 116%

PERSONNEL

11 expatriates
45 national staff (daily workers not included)
The CAR’s Bossangoa prison had food and infrastructure and, exceptionally, stepped in to ensure that some 80 detainees in small-scale assistance to improve prison

Visits to places of detention in the CAR were intensified, in view of the increased number of arrests in connection with State security. The authorities in Equatorial Guinea also agreed to set up an interministerial committee to address detention issues.

The ICRC built up contacts with the authorities and weapon bearers and, from its new office in Paoua, documented allegations of misconduct by weapon bearers. It also explained the ICRC’s mandate and strict principles of neutrality, independence and impartiality in order to gain acceptance and thus ensure safe access for its delegates to visitors, detainees and any family members separated by internal violence to communicate with relatives.

The promotion of IHL remained a priority, targeting national and regional authorities, armed forces and influential sectors of civil society. To reinforce its communication initiatives, the ICRC set up a public IHL reference centre in Yaoundé.

In coordination with the International Federation, the ICRC continued to support the Red Cross Societies in the region in developing their capacities to help vulnerable populations.

To ensure effective coordination of humanitarian activities, the ICRC maintained close contact with various UN agencies and international organizations, both at the regional level in Yaoundé and in the field.

The ICRC continued to monitor the treatment and living conditions of security detainees in the region and provided the authorities with confidential feedback on any improvements that needed to be made. Visits to places of detention in the CAR were intensified, in view of the increased number of arrests in connection with State security. The delegation also provided small-scale assistance to improve prison infrastructure and, exceptionally, stepped in to ensure that some 80 detainees in the CAR’s Bossangoa prison had food and medical care. In Equatorial Guinea, following the opening of an office in Bata in early 2006, the ICRC conducted its first ever training in the country on IHL and detention standards, attended by some 400 police officers. The authorities in Equatorial Guinea also agreed to set up an interministerial committee to address detention issues.

Protecting civilians
As a result of escalating conflict in the north of the CAR, civilians were killed, wounded, displaced and harassed or arrested on suspicion of supporting the opposition.

The ICRC built up contacts with the authorities and weapon bearers and, from its new office in Paoua, documented allegations of misconduct by weapon bearers. Where necessary, it made written or oral representations, in confidence, to the parties to the conflict to ensure that people who were not or no longer taking part in the hostilities were protected in accordance with applicable human rights law and IHL.

Providing emergency aid
Given the volatile security situation, many people who fled their villages following fighting in the north-west of the CAR were afraid to return home, so resettled nearby in the forest close to their fields. Displaced families set up temporary homes with tar-paulins, blankets, sleeping mats and buckets provided by the ICRC, and were also given soap to reduce health risks. Relief distributions were interrupted between late July and early September because of security conditions. To improve access to clean water, some 500 hand pumps were repaired and serviced in the violence-affected north-western prefecture of Ouham-Pendé, and local committees trained to maintain them.

50,000 IDPs (10,000 households) received essential household items

Improving rural water and sanitation facilities
Reflecting conditions countrywide in the CAR, rural communities in the remote south-eastern prefectures of Basse Koto and Mbomou (population 220,000) faced serious health risks because water and sanitation services had fallen into disrepair during the country’s long-term instability. As part of an ICRC pilot project initiated in 2005, villages, poorer town neighbourhoods and health centres in those regions were being assisted in building or upgrading water points and latrines. In parallel, communities were coached by CAR Red Cross volunteers trained by the ICRC in the WHO-developed Participatory Hygiene and Sanitation Transformation (PHAST) guidelines. Hygiene conditions in 64 of those communities improved visibly, mainly through the covering of wells and better use of household water storage.
facilities and latrines. Villages also became more active in deciding themselves which water facilities should be upgraded to benefit the whole community.

- 37,000 rural residents benefited from completed (33,000 people) or ongoing (4,000 people) water and sanitation projects in 38 villages, neighbourhoods and health centres (23 boreholes and 8 wells rehabilitated, 7 boreholes drilled, and 322 individual and 18 public latrines installed)

Restoring family links
Because of conflict and instability in neighbouring States, the countries covered by the ICRC’s Yaoundé regional delegation hosted a sizeable refugee population. Refugees as well as asylum seekers continued to communicate with relatives through the tracing and RCM network, which was run by the ICRC in the CAR and by the Red Cross Societies, with ICRC support, in the other countries. The services were still needed in the Sudanese refugee camp of Mboki in the CAR as UNHCR had to suspend repatriations between April and mid-December because of the closure of the CAR-Sudan border.

- 91 RCMs collected and 90 RCMs distributed to civilians in Cameroon, and 76 and 93 in the CAR
- 4 children in Cameroon separated from their parents issued with the necessary travel documents to join their families abroad

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

Visiting detainees
In the CAR, the renewed insurgency led to an increase in arrests in connection with State security. Persons arrested included members of political parties and the former regime, most of whom had been sentenced or released by year-end. The ICRC stepped up its visits to detention facilities in the CAR, while continuing to make regular visits to places of detention in Cameroon and Equatorial Guinea. Delegates followed the individual cases of security detainees, monitored the health and welfare of the general prison population and provided the authorities, in confidence, with feedback and recommendations concerning treatment, living conditions and respect for judicial guarantees. During visits, detainees were offered the tracing and RCM services to communicate with their families and received, where necessary, basic hygiene and other essential items.

- in the CAR, 852 detainees visited, 85 of them monitored individually (3 females), including 78 newly registered (3 females), during 64 visits to 28 detention facilities
- 834 detainees visited, 106 of them monitored individually (4 females), including 10 newly registered (1 female), during 19 visits to 11 detention facilities in Cameroon and Equatorial Guinea
- 35 RCMs collected from and 29 RCMs distributed to detainees

Improving detention conditions
Detention facilities in the region were, in general, underfunded. Prison conditions in the CAR mirrored the extreme poverty faced by the general population after decades of political instability.

Inmates faced fewer health risks following the ICRC’s upgrading of water and sanitation facilities in a CAR detention facility in Bangui and in Cameroon’s Bamenda prison and the provision of mosquito nets in all places of detention visited in Equatorial Guinea. Following a nutritional survey, 80 detainees in Bossaanga prison in the CAR were provided with food and medicines for three months. Some detainees in Equatorial Guinea also received urgent medical care.

In parallel, a variety of programmes were carried out to support the detaining authorities in improving detention conditions. In Cameroon, the authorities, as well as embassies and international organizations involved, regularly received ICRC input on the country’s planned penal reforms. In 2006, Cameroon’s Justice Ministry increased the budget for prison food and structural maintenance. In the CAR, 17 army personnel guarding Bossaanga prison attended an IHL session. In Equatorial Guinea, at the government’s request, 400 police officers participated in a two-day session on IHL and internationally recognized detention standards, the first such event organized by the ICRC in the country. This followed up a round-table held in November 2005 with government officials on ways to improve detention conditions, based on an ICRC report submitted earlier that year. At the round-table, the officials had also agreed to establish, with ICRC support, an interministerial committee to address detention issues. During 2006, the authorities received two more written ICRC reports on conditions in the country’s detention facilities. On 2 November, the parliament of Equatorial Guinea passed a law prohibiting and punishing acts of torture.

- 80 detainees in the CAR provided with food
- 500 inmates in Cameroon and 30 inmates in the CAR benefited from habitat projects

AUTHORITIES

Governments in the region continued to receive ICRC legal and technical support in ratifying the main IHL treaties and incorporating their provisions into domestic law.

On 20 October, the CAR ratified the 1997 Chemical Weapons Convention. Prior to this, 13 government legal advisers from Cameroon, the CAR, Chad, Congo and Gabon, as well as CEMAC legal experts, participated in the ICRC’s first ever regional workshop on IHL implementation in Central Africa, run over two days in April in Yaoundé. During the year, efforts were ongoing to help Cameroon and the CAR establish national IHL committees, to assist the CAR and Gabon in revising their penal codes and implementing the Rome Statute and to encourage all three countries to ratify the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons and Additional Protocol III. Equatorial Guinea entered into discussions on IHL implementation, focusing on emblem protection.

ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

Cameroon’s armed forces and the ICRC continued to develop IHL training at the country’s 33 military training centres, where the subject was mandatory. In the CAR, IHL sessions were initiated in the north for troops deployed to quell the insurgency. The year also saw Equatorial Guinea and Gabon renew cooperation with the ICRC on IHL training for their armed forces. In addition, the regional Reinforcement of African Peacekeeping Capabilities (RECAM) V initiative benefited from ICRC input, as did a number of regional training centres such as Cameroon’s new School of Warfare, which established IHL courses during the year.

- a RECAM V ground exercise held in Cameroon in November for armed forces of the 11 member States of the Economic Community of Central African States benefited from an ICRC IHL consultant and a one-day, ICRC-organized IHL training session for 150 officers
20 military medical officers from Central African countries participated in a two-week course on IHL and medical aid.

36 armed forces officers from Central African countries participated in 2 one-week IHL courses, one at Cameroon’s School of Warfare and the other at Gabon’s Military College.

100 police and security officers from Francophone African countries attended 5 IHL sessions at Cameroon’s Awaé regional training centre.

10 future IHL Gabonese army instructors participated in 2 one-week IHL courses.

2 armed forces instructors from Cameroon, 1 from the CAR and 1 from Gabon sponsored to take part in an IHL seminar abroad.

In the CAR, 40 troops stationed in conflict-affected Paoua, 30 FOMUC officers in Bangui and 25 armed forces and gendarmerie officers in Bangassou, capital of Mbomou prefecture, attended IHL sessions.

Cameroon and the CAR assisted by the ICRC in updating their IHL military instruction manuals.

31 army, police and customs officers working at the Cameroon-Equatorial Guinea border attended an IHL session.

CIVIL SOCIETY

The media and higher-education institutions remained a vital relay for the ICRC to promote IHL to a wider audience.

Cameroon’s Ministry of Secondary Education agreed to pilot the Exploring Humanitarian Law programme in secondary schools and, with ICRC support, set up a steering committee which held 7 preparatory workshops and meetings.

Over 100 civil authorities and traditional leaders in the CAR’s violence-affected north-west attended IHL sessions.

A public IHL reference centre established at the ICRC’s regional delegation in Yaoundé.

The media provided with press releases, updates, interviews and, in the CAR, a field trip to highlight humanitarian needs in rural areas.

A total of 90 journalists in Cameroon, Gabon and Equatorial Guinea attended IHL seminars.

In Cameroon, 20 deans and lecturers participated in a two-day workshop on harmonizing IHL courses, and 2 members of university IHL associations attended a three-day IHL workshop in Senegal (see Dakar).

A total of 430 students took part in IHL events or presentations at the Institute of International Relations and Dschang University in Cameroon and at Malabo University in Equatorial Guinea.

RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT

National Societies in the region received funds, training, equipment, materials and technical advice from the ICRC, in coordination with the International Federation, to build up their emergency response, tracing and communication programmes. The CAR Red Cross made good progress in rebuilding its branches in violence-prone regions. The Red Cross Societies of Cameroon and Equatorial Guinea remained active on several fronts, and the Gabonese National Society emerged from internal problems and resumed cooperation with the ICRC.

With ICRC support, the Cameroon Red Cross Society:

- conducted emergency preparedness training for some 145 volunteers in the event of any spillover effects from the instability in the CAR and Chad, and provided personnel with 150 first-aid kits, 30 stretchers and identification vests;
- assisted the 27 survivors and helped bury the 180 victims of a shipwreck;
- trained 25 volunteers responsible for restoring family links for refugees;
- to promote IHL and the Fundamental Principles, conducted dissemination sessions for 50 Red Cross volunteers and 14 owners of community radio stations, ran a website and issued regular newsletters on its activities.

With ICRC support, the Central African Red Cross Society:

- in response to violence in the north-west, administered first aid, buried the dead and helped the ICRC and the Italian NGO COOPI distribute relief goods to IDPs;
- conducted first-aid training for 350 new volunteers in 6 violence-prone regions and provided its members with 150 first-aid kits, 30 stretchers and identification vests;
- sent 800 volunteers to help a UNICEF-supported vaccination campaign reach all areas;
- built a new headquarters in Bangui to replace the one destroyed during the March 2003 overthrow of the government;
- adopted new statutes to conform to Movement standards and elected new officers.

With ICRC support, the Equatorial Guinea Red Cross Society:

- sent some 105 volunteers to work on a rural community water and sanitation project that built 30 latrines, benefiting some 1,000 people;
- provided personnel with 200 first-aid kits and identification vests;
- produced a regular Red Cross radio programme.

With ICRC support, the Gabonese Red Cross Society:

- provided first-aiders at public events;
- mounted a wide-reaching hygiene-promotion campaign;
- trained 20 volunteers on first aid and 1 person to head tracing activities;
- initiated an IHL-promotion campaign.

With ICRC support, the Gabonese Red Cross Society:

- provided first-aiders at public events;
- mounted a wide-reaching hygiene-promotion campaign;
- trained 20 volunteers on first aid and 1 person to head tracing activities;
- initiated an IHL-promotion campaign.
ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

ICRC DELEGATIONS
Afghanistan
Indonesia
Myanmar
Nepal
Pakistan
Philippines
Sri Lanka

REGIONAL DELEGATIONS
Bangkok
Beijing
Kuala Lumpur
New Delhi
Suva
Tashkent

EXPENDITURE (IN KCHF)
Protection
34,968
Assistance
114,046
Prevention
23,527
Cooperation with National Societies
17,182
General
-76

189,646 of which: Overheads 11,567

Implementation rate
76%
ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

In 2006, the ICRC continued to respond to the needs of people affected by armed conflict and other situations of violence in Asia and the Pacific. The security situation in Sri Lanka took a turn for the worse at the end of 2005, with violence reaching new heights in 2006. There was also a marked increase in the scope and intensity of the armed conflict in Afghanistan, with violence spreading to areas that had previously been calm. Pakistan, too, had its share of internal problems: Waziristan was the scene of serious military confrontation between tribesmen and government troops, and violence flared up again in Baluchistan. Meanwhile, incidents of violence continued to occur almost daily in southern Thailand.

Several low-intensity conflicts continued to simmer in the region. Separatist aspirations provoked regular clashes in the Philippines, and armed groups in Myanmar persisted in their struggle against the government. Tribal fighting occurred in Papua New Guinea and sporadic violence was seen in Indonesia’s Papua province. Unrest in Timor-Leste caused the displacement of some 120,000 people.

The ICRC remained active in all the above contexts, pursuing its efforts to protect and assist those directly affected by the violence. It continued to remind all parties to conflict of their obligations under IHL, visited detainees held in connection with conflict or for security reasons and offered its services to the parties as a neutral intermediary, where appropriate. It endeavoured to meet the basic needs of affected populations, focusing in particular on livelihood assistance, the provision of clean water and essential household items to IDPs, returnees and residents and, where necessary, the provision of food and shelter to the most vulnerable households. ICRC support aimed to increase the capacities of hospitals to treat people wounded in the fighting, while support to primary health care centres aimed to enhance the basic health services available to the civilian population. The extent of the needs in Sri Lanka and Timor-Leste led the ICRC to issue budget extension appeals to cover activities in these two contexts. In all its operations, the ICRC maintained close cooperation with its Movement partners, UN agencies and other humanitarian actors so as to maximize the impact of its action and to avoid gaps or duplication of effort.

One of the biggest integrated assistance operations in 2006 aimed to address the needs of survivors of the earthquake of 8 October 2005. The ICRC focused in particular on the Neelum and Jhelum valleys in Pakistan-administered Kashmir, areas that, before the ceasefire at the end of 2003, had long been affected by crossfire at the Line of Control between India and Pakistan and were seriously affected by the earthquake. It provided medical care through a 100-bed field hospital and four basic health care units, and in its largest-ever helicopter operation, distributed shelter material, food and other relief to help civilians who had stayed on in high-altitude and remote areas that few other humanitarian organizations could reach. When spring came, the ICRC focused on livelihood recovery and on helping the authorities restore services.

In many contexts, access to conflict victims proved to be the ICRC’s main challenge. In Sri Lanka, fighting, hartals (regional general strikes), security constraints and other problems hindered ICRC and National Society movements and slowed the implementation of planned activities. Access to conflict victims was often hampered by ongoing military operations and lack of authorization to travel to affected areas. These factors also complicated the procurement of essential supplies. Mounting insecurity and intensified insurgency also severely impeded the ICRC’s movements in Afghanistan, with large parts of the south and east remaining off-limits to ICRC staff, with the exception of the major cities. Furthermore, ICRC staff members in Pakistan were still unable to travel to areas directly affected by military operations in Waziristan and Baluchistan. ICRC activities in Myanmar, which included visiting detainees and assisting vulnerable populations in sensitive border areas, were first severely restricted, then prevented completely. Late in the year, the government of Myanmar ordered the ICRC to close its five field offices in the country, effectively making it impossible for the organization to carry out most of its assistance and protection work. After the ICRC made a public statement in November on the difficulties it was facing in Myanmar, the government informed the organization that its offices could stay open.

There were nevertheless encouraging developments in certain contexts. In the space of a few months, a full-scale conflict situation in Nepal became one of fragile peace. The political changes under way in the country prompted a shift in the ICRC’s priorities. The delegation began to concentrate on dealing with the residual effects of the conflict, in particular clarifying the fate of missing persons, restoring family links, assisting people recovering from the impact of the conflict, supporting the prison administration, building the capacity of the National Society and promoting IHL.

Similarly, with the implementation of the memorandum of understanding between the Free Aceh Movement (GAM) and the Indonesian government, the situation in Nanggroe Aceh Darussalam province was generally peaceful, and people displaced by the former conflict began to return to their places of origin. After handing over its tsunami-related activities to other humanitarian actors, the ICRC refocused on addressing the needs of civilians whose farming livelihoods had been affected by past conflict. It concentrated on districts that had been subject to particular difficulties or where few or no other humanitarian actors were present.

In many of the countries covered by the ICRC in the Asia and Pacific region, delegates continued to visit detainees, particularly those held for reasons of State security. After conducting private interviews with the detainees, the ICRC submitted confidential reports to the authorities containing, where necessary, recommendations for improving the treatment or living conditions of detainees. In the Philippines, for example, the ICRC continued to lend its support to the prison administration, with a view to mobilizing government support for further improvements to alleviate the severe overcrowding in the country’s detention facilities. In many countries, the ICRC carried out ad hoc repair and construction work on prison infrastructure to improve detainees’ living environment, water supply and access to medical care. Particular emphasis was placed on controlling tuberculosis in Kyrgyz prisons.

In parallel, the ICRC continued to seek access to detainees not yet visited and to regain access to those held in Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, to whom visits had been suspended in late 2004.

All delegations pursued the core activity of restoring and maintaining contact between family members separated by armed conflict. The ICRC continued to offer the RCM and tracing services to people seeking relatives with whom they had lost contact or who were detained. Through the National Societies, the ICRC continued to impress upon the governments of the Korean peninsula the importance of finding a solution to the prolonged anguish.
endured by families separated as a result of the Korean war.

The ICRC also pursued its efforts to improve the capacities of governments and local actors to respond appropriately to the issue of persons missing in relation to conflict. It focused particularly on those missing in connection with the former conflicts in Nepal and East Timor, in the latter case pursuing its dialogue with the governments of Indonesia and Timor-Leste. In the Philippines, it co-organized a national symposium on the proper handling of large numbers of human remains following major disasters, and in Indonesia, it lent its expertise to a conference on disaster-victim identification.

The ICRC remained a leading player in the provision of physical rehabilitation services in Asia, running or supporting centres in Afghanistan, Cambodia, China, the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan and Tajikistan. In some of these countries, the ICRC, in cooperation with the National Society, ran outreach programmes to identify, transport and accommodate vulnerable amputees, particularly those living in remote areas, to enable them to obtain prosthetic/orthotic services.

A large part of ICRC activities in Asia and the Pacific consisted of promoting IHL and the relevance of humanitarian principles in local contexts. The ICRC briefed regional organizations on IHL and maintained contact with governmental authorities with a view to encouraging accession to IHL instruments and incorporation of their provisions into domestic legislation, often through dedicated national interministerial committees. During the year, Nauru acceded to the 1949 Geneva Conventions and the 1977 Additional Protocols.

The ICRC also worked with armed and security forces to advance the integration of IHL into their doctrine, training and operations. As several countries in Asia and the Pacific were contributing troops to international peacekeeping missions, the ICRC gave pre-deployment briefings on IHL for many of the troops. It also conducted IHL dissemination sessions for several armed opposition groups in the field, to increase their awareness of IHL and the ICRC’s mandate and to ensure the security of its staff.

The ICRC continued to promote IHL among influential members of civil society in Asia and the Pacific, notably the media, NGOs, think-tanks and religious leaders, to enhance their understanding of and respect for IHL and to gain their support for ICRC activities. Students were another key target audience, and the ICRC worked with the authorities to incorporate IHL and humanitarian principles into academic curricula. Its Exploring Humanitarian Law programme for secondary school children continued to go from strength to strength in China, Malaysia, Mongolia and Thailand.

As in previous years, the Regional Resource Centre, attached to the Kuala Lumpur regional delegation, provided technical support to delegations in East and South-East Asia and the Pacific in the planning and implementation of prevention activities and the production of publications and other communication tools.

The ICRC continued to work with and boost the capacities of the region’s National Societies. It cooperated closely with the National Societies in host countries in carrying out its activities in tracing, health, assistance and preserving or improving economic security. It also gave technical, financial and material support to help them develop their role, profile and activities and to strengthen their capacities to respond to violence or conflict. National Societies remained key partners for ICRC operations, particularly in Afghanistan, India, Indonesia, Nepal, Pakistan, the Philippines and Sri Lanka.
In 2006, the ICRC visited and monitored individually 2,424 people held by the Afghan authorities, the US authorities and the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) in connection with the armed conflict and helped them keep in touch with their families; assisted ISAF in drafting standard operating procedures for detention; participated in discussions with relevant authorities on the legal framework for depriving people of freedom; supported key hospitals and Afghan Red Crescent clinics providing care for more than 190,000 people; supported the National Society’s community-based first-aid programme; with the National Society, provided improved water supply and sanitation for some 192,000 people; ran 6 physical rehabilitation centres providing services for 58,566 disabled people; expanded contacts with religious circles and sought contacts with representatives of the armed opposition in an effort to increase acceptance of the ICRC and improve security and access of its staff in conflict areas.

The year was marked by an increase in the scope and intensity of the armed conflict in Afghanistan. Roadside bombs, targeted killings, suicide bombings and military operations multiplied, particularly in the south and east of the country. As the conflict broadened and took on a new character, military operations intensified in rural areas where the armed opposition extended its control over parts of the rural south and east. Greater numbers of war-wounded were admitted to hospital, and more people moved to urban areas or over the border to Pakistan to escape violence or intimidation or as a result of disruption to security and trade. Discontent with the pace of government efforts to disarm unofficial militias and eradicate poppy production and the absence of lasting social and economic change fuelled tribal, factional and religious tensions and sparked demonstrations and riots.

In August and October respectively, the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) took over responsibility for the south and east of Afghanistan. British, Canadian and Dutch ISAF troops were deployed in the south and US coalition forces operating in the east integrated the ISAF command. By the end of 2006, 32,000 international troops were operating in Afghanistan, of which 10,000 US troops remained under a counter-“terrorism” mandate independent of the ISAF.

The Afghan National Army (ANA) and Afghan National Police (ANP) took on more combat responsibility, and the government pressed ahead with its decision to support former tribal militias in reinforcing local law and order, forming the Afghan National Auxiliary Police (ANAP). The United States continued the process of transferring to Afghan authority Afghan internees being held at the Guantanamo Bay Naval Station in Cuba and the Bagram Theater Internment Facility in Afghanistan.

Relations between Afghanistan and Pakistan deteriorated towards the end of the year, with Pakistan planning to fence and mine sections of its border with Afghanistan.

The Afghan national parliament convened and approved most of the cabinet proposed by President Hamid Karzai. At the beginning of the year, Afghanistan signed a “compact” with key donor countries clarifying the main conditions for a five-year donor commitment in the areas of security, governance, the rule of law, human rights and economic and social development. In addition, the UN Security Council renewed and expanded the mandate of the UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan.
ICRC ACTION

Mounting insecurity and the intensified insurgency continued to seriously impede the ICRC’s movements in Afghanistan in 2006. Humanitarian agencies faced enormous challenges in gaining acceptance and security guarantees and aid workers were increasingly targeted. Much of Afghanistan remained off-limits to ICRC staff, with the exception of the major cities. The ICRC relied on an extensive network of Afghan Red Crescent volunteers to assist the population most affected by conflict.

The ICRC’s presence and activities developed as the conflict intensified. The organization continued its visits to people held by Afghan and US authorities. Ongoing US detention in Afghanistan and the transfer of internees from US to Afghan custody were the subject of dialogue with the detaining authorities with regard to appropriate detention conditions, treatment of detainees and respect for relevant legal provisions.

With the expansion of its responsibilities in the south and east, NATO/ISAF began to arrest people as well. Following an extensive dialogue during bilateral meetings and pre-deployment exercises both at its headquarters and in the field, ISAF took on board the ICRC’s recommendations regarding the inclusion of provisions on notification and visiting procedures in its standard operating procedures for detention. Initial ICRC visits to ISAF detention facilities were conducted in the south.

The ICRC collected allegations of violations of IHL with respect to people not or no longer taking part in the hostilities, reminded all parties of their obligations under the applicable rules of IHL and, wherever necessary, made confidential representations to the parties concerned regarding specific cases brought to its attention.

In response to the growing number of conflict casualties in the south and east, the ICRC, in cooperation with the National Society, developed a comprehensive approach to medical assistance, ranging from first aid to surgical care. It maintained support to the Shiberghan and Jalalabad hospitals and was in the process of upgrading services to the surgical wing, to the entire Kandahar regional referral hospital. Medical and physical rehabilitation programmes for conflict victims in the south and east were closely coordinated with similar ICRC programmes in Pakistan’s border areas. Six ICRC physical rehabilitation centres continued to provide services to the disabled all over the country. Special emphasis was placed on extending services to and improving accessibility from conflict-affected provinces through enhanced patient referral systems, often involving the National Society.

The ICRC improved water quality and sanitation in the poorest neighbourhoods around major cities. It also played an important role in the collection of data on incidents involving mines and other explosive remnants of war and in mine-risk education as part of a programme run in close cooperation with the Afghan Red Crescent Society. The ICRC and the National Society distributed food and essential household items to 5,500 families displaced or otherwise affected by conflict.

The ICRC also helped the ANA implement its IHL training programme and provided basic IHL training to a number of security forces.

CIVILIANS

Civilian security and emergency relief

Increasing violence continued to take a heavy toll, particularly among civilians. Bilaterally as well as in ICRC press releases, the parties were reminded of the need to respect IHL. The ICRC collected allegations of IHL violations and transmitted them to the parties concerned when appropriate. Through ICRC/Afghan Red Crescent distributions, 38,500 people (5,500 households) who had been displaced or whose property had been destroyed were better able to cope with the effects of the violence after receiving food and essential household items such as jerry-cans, tarpaulins, buckets and soap.

Restoring family links

Family members separated by conflict, including internees/detainees, were able to maintain contact through the RCM network operated by the ICRC in close cooperation with the National Society. With the help of the ICRC, families traced relatives with whom they had lost contact. One Iranian minor was reunited with his family.

ICRC ANNUAL REPORT 2006
5,629 RCMs collected from and 6,931 RCMs distributed to civilians
new tracing requests registered for 257 people (117 females, 114 minors at the time of disappearance); 99 people located; 137 people (61 females, 58 minors at the time of disappearance) still being sought
3 people reunited with their families
1 person issued with an ICRC travel document

Upgrading water supply and sanitation
The water boards of Herat, Jalalabad, Kabul, Kandahar and Mazar-i-Sharif benefitted from ICRC technical and material support in expanding their water networks. Most of the projects covered poor neighbourhoods that had grown up on the edge of major cities as returnees, IDPs and rural populations flocked to urban areas. These communities were not covered by water systems funded by major donors (whose plans focused mainly on town centres) or NGOs (which worked mostly on rural water schemes). The communities were involved in the planning and implementation of the projects. In areas where water projects were in progress, community councils (shura) were mobilized to improve drainage, garbage collection and waste disposal systems for emptying latrines, and community members learned how to improve hygiene in sessions held in their homes, mosques and other public places.

The Central Water Authority established a water-testing laboratory in Kabul. The ICRC rehabilitated the facility and trained staff.

272,200 people benefited from completed (192,200 people living in the outskirts of major cities: 95,000 people in Kabul, 80,000 in Herat, 7,200 in Bamiyan, 5,000 in Kandahar and 5,000 in Jalalabad) and ongoing (80,000 people living in the outskirts of Herat, Jalalabad, Kabul and Mazar-i-Sharif) water and sanitation projects

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

Persons in US custody
Internees at the Bagram Theater Internment Facility continued to receive ICRC visits every four to six weeks. Delegates assessed their treatment and detention conditions both in the facility and, via interviews, in the places where some had been held before being taken to Bagram. The ICRC regularly submitted confidential reports of its findings, observations and recommendations to the US authorities.

1,035 internees visited, 862 of them monitored individually (16 minors), including 409 newly registered (7 minors), during 10 visits to 1 place of detention
4,322 RCMs collected from and 3,411 RCMs distributed to internees
4 detention certificates issued to former detainees or their families

Seventy-seven of the internees released from the Bagram facility and handed over to the ICRC were given clothing and financial support to cover the cost of their transport home. Coalition forces released 218 internees under the “Strengthening of Peace” programme and handed them over to the Afghan government in the presence of the ICRC. Two Iranian internees were flown aboard a Red Cross plane to Tehran to rejoin their families after being released from US custody in Guantanamo Bay and Bagram. The ICRC monitored the handover from US to Afghan authority of 36 internees released from Guantanamo Bay and provided them with clothing, accommodation and financial support before they were reunited with their families.

Persons in NATO/ISAF custody

Security detainees were monitored individually through regular ICRC visits and given the opportunity to correspond with their families via RCMs. Upon release, the delegation paid their fares home. Because of their special vulnerability, detained foreigners, regardless of the charges on which they were held, were also followed individually.

Detainees in Afghan prisons benefited from improved water and sanitation conditions with the help of ICRC technical expertise, materials and financial support. An ICRC technical assessment report on 33 provincial prisons helped the authorities to identify needs and priorities for upgrading prisons and made donors more aware of some of the problems that needed addressing.

9,475 detainees visited, 1,562 of them monitored individually (20 females, 44 minors), including 1,042 newly registered (20 females, 34 minors), during 234 visits to 78 places of detention

646 RCMs collected from and 473 RCMs distributed to detainees
21 detention certificates issued to former detainees or their families
3,376 detainees benefited from completed (2,896 detainees) and ongoing (480 detainees) water and sanitation projects

During an uprising at Pul-i-Charki prison in Kabul in February, the ICRC acted as a neutral intermediary, facilitating communication between the parties, supervising the relocation of 2,000 detainees and providing assistance after the revolt ended. It later helped locate the family of one of the deceased detainees and assisted the detainees who had been relocated.

Legal framework
Discussions were held with the relevant authorities regarding the legal framework for depriving people of freedom, with an emphasis on those arrested or held by international forces and for whom a transfer to Afghan authority was planned in 2007.

WOUNDED AND SICK
Support to hospital services
Afghanistan developed a comprehensive primary health care programme with the objective of offering health services to 82% of the population by the end of 2006. Implementation of the Essential Package of Hospital Services (EPHS) began in the first half of 2006. The first phase, human resources reform, was completed in 10 provincial hospitals.

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services had thus far been lacking. Persuading it to take on a greater role in reports to the government in the hope of providing follow-up care. They submitted applications to the government, national and non-governmental organizations, with the number rising. Inter-
institutions were improved in the laboratory and disinfection facilities, and rooms and corridors of the surgical, paraplegic and orthopaedic wards upgraded, benefiting patients and staff. Mirwais remained the only functioning hospital in the south, and as military activity escalated in the region, the number of wounded people being treated at the hospital, with ICRC support, grew. Shiberghan hospital received ICRC material assistance for clinical activities, as well as for the general running of the hospital.

Wazir Akbar Khan, Ibn Sinai and Aliabad hospitals in Kabul received ad hoc support, and the Ministry of Public Health was supplied with emergency stocks. The ICRC maintained its supply line to and supervision of the Herat and Wazir Akbar Khan blood banks until the end of 2006.

The Maimana and Shiberghan provincial hospitals in the north received ICRC training and material support to prepare for a potential influx of surgical cases.

In the 14 ICRC-supported facilities:

- 34,493 patients (8,262 women and 9,869 children) admitted: 1,744 weapon- wounded (252 women, 322 children, 249 people injured by mines/explosive remnants of war); 23,927 other surgical cases; 2,066 medical, 2,338 gynaecological/obstetric, and 4,418 paediatric patients;
- 17,605 surgical operations performed;
- 123,300 outpatient consultations given.

Rehabilitation of the disabled

Of the estimated several hundred thousand physically disabled people in Afghanistan, 35,000 had lost limbs as a result of mine incidents, with the number rising. International and non-governmental organizations fitted them with artificial limbs and provided follow-up care. They submitted reports to the government in the hope of persuading it to take on a greater role in caring for the mine-injured, especially in the south and east, where access to such services had thus far been lacking.

Thousands of disabled people were provided with physiotherapy, mobility aids (crutches, wheelchairs) and devices (prostheses, orthoses) at the ICRC’s six physical rehabilitation centres. The facilities also organized schooling and vocational training, micro-credit schemes or job placements for many of their patients. Some 500 disabled people were employed in the centres themselves.

People with spinal cord injuries and their carers received medical assistance, equipment/appliances, physiotherapy and counselling during home visits by ICRC teams. Those in especially difficult circumstances also received financial support. Children affected by cerebral palsy were given physiotherapy and the necessary equipment, while their parents received counselling.

On-the-job and formal training for prosthetic/orthotic technicians was provided in the six centres.

- 58,566 patients (8,511 women and 13,130 children) received services at the ICRC-supported physical rehabilitation centre
- 1,021 new patients (95 women and 73 children) fitted with prostheses and 5,108 (1,257 women and 1,837 children) with orthoses
- 4,321 prostheses (315 for women and 196 for children; 2,967 for mine victims), 9,969 orthoses (1,738 for women and 4,767 for children; 50 for mine victims), 9,876 crutches and 973 wheelchairs delivered
- 140,797 physiotherapy sessions carried out, including for 3,757 patients with spinal cord injuries
- 2,130 people going school, vocational training, micro-credits or job placements
- 65 prosthetic/orthotic technicians attended a training course

The ICRC continued to provide information on its mandate and activities to provincial authorities. It supplied regional branches of major political parties, local shuras and the new provincial councils with periodical and ad hoc publications and kept them updated on ICRC activities through meetings and briefings. ICRC calendars for the 2006–07 solar Islamic year were distributed to political authorities.

- 123 members of the provincial authorities participated in 6 dissemination sessions and 8 briefings

ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

By the end of 2006, the ANA was 35,000 strong. ANA training benefited from ISAF involvement and technical and financial support. The integration of IHL into the ANA’s training programmes progressed with assistance from the ICRC, in close cooperation with the special training units of ISAF. The ICRC maintained regular contact with NATO forces in Europe and participated in pre-deployment exercises.

IHL was included in the curriculum of the Afghan National Military Academy (ANMA) and Kabul Military Training Centre (KMTC) and taught by ICRC-trained instructors. In order to facilitate IHL teaching in military units, a teaching manual for instructors and IHL teaching files were published in Pashto and Dari. Presentation packages and case studies in Dari were prepared and introduced at the ANA corps level.

The ICRC regularly visited police stations in order to maintain contact with the ANP. Police personnel attended dissemination sessions, mainly in the northern provinces.

- 18 instructors from the KMTC, ANMA and the Command and General Staff College and 120 officers from ANA training institutions and military units attended IHL courses
- 18 ANA officers and international mentors/advisers attended 6 information sessions, 16 meetings and 9 briefings
- 283 ANA officers and soldiers participated in 7 dissemination sessions on ICRC activities and the basics of IHL
- 443 officers of the police and security forces, mainly in the northern provinces, attended 15 dissemination sessions and 2 briefings

AUTHORITIES

The ICRC pursued its dialogue with the authorities at central and local level to promote implementation of IHL. In its relations with the government and parliament, the organization emphasized the importance of ratifying the 1977 Additional Protocols, but parliament’s other priorities took precedence in 2006. The 1949 Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols were published in the Dari language.

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CIVIL SOCIETY

Regular meetings, newsletters, fact sheets, press releases and other publications in English, Dari and Pashto kept major international and local media representatives in Kabul, as well as NGOs and international organizations, abreast of the ICRC’s activities.

The ICRC continued to promote IHL teaching in universities. A lecturer from the law faculty of Nangarhar University in Jalalabad participated in an IHL and Refugee Law course in Bangalore, India, co-organized by the ICRC and UNHCR (see New Delhi).

To promote its principles and explain its approach, the ICRC relied on direct contact with the public through its programmes. It stepped up efforts to establish new contacts and maintain existing ones with traditional sectors of civil society, such as local shuras, elders and tribal leaders. In particular, the ICRC fostered closer contacts with religious leaders throughout the country.

- 42 spiritual leaders from 32 provinces attended an ICRC-organized Islamic conference and discussed ICRC activities in Afghanistan, IHL and its compliance with Islam
- some 600 religious leaders, 1,100 students, 100 journalists and 2,000 members of the general public attended information sessions on the ICRC and IHL

RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT

Afghan Red Crescent activities, including mine-risk education, community-based first aid, food-for-work schemes, vocational training, dissemination activities and tracing, benefited from ICRC support. Cooperation between the ICRC and the National Society enhanced access to victims beyond the reach of other humanitarian actors. The National Society pursued efforts to reform its transportation, human resources and financial management structure with ICRC technical, financial and material support provided in cooperation with the National Society leadership and the International Federation.

Red Crescent branches distributed ICRC assistance to conflict-affected IDPs, principally in the south. The National Society extended its community-based first-aid programme for war-wounded to 16 provinces, bolstered by some 10,000 volunteers. The ICRC assisted it in so doing through training in neutral humanitarian conduct, provision of first-aid materials to volunteers and help with the recruitment of staff and volunteers.

With funding and/or technical/material assistance from the ICRC, the Afghan Red Crescent Society:

- distributed essential household items and/or food to 5,500 families affected by conflict;
- offered refresher training and 677 first-aid kit refills to 512 first-aid team leaders, provided 2,174 first-aid kits to volunteers, and 17 ICRC dressing kits for 50–200 war-wounded in areas with exceptionally high need;
- ran 361 vocational training projects and 115 food-for-work projects nationwide, of which 47% and 66% respectively were in conflict-affected areas;
- expanded the National Society’s mine-action programme to 110 staff to provide national coverage.
In 2006, Indonesia was again plagued by devastating natural disasters: deadly flooding and landslides throughout the archipelago; renewed volcanic activity from Mount Merapi; and a major earthquake in the Yogyakarta area that killed more than 5,000 people and injured 30,000 others.

The status of Papua resurfaced as a national issue, with demonstrations taking place both in the province and in Jakarta and sporadic violence occurring in the province, leading to a string of arrests. Gubernatorial elections nevertheless took place peacefully.

Central Sulawesi witnessed a new upsurge of violence in the second half of the year. The execution of three Catholics convicted of involvement in the 2000 sectarian conflict in Poso triggered unrest not only in Sulawesi but also in Flores and West Timor.
ICRC ACTION

In Indonesia, the ICRC continued in its endeavour to address the needs of civilians whose livelihoods and safety were or had been affected by conflict or tensions. Interdisciplinary teams carried out assessments, delivered aid and conducted protection activities. In addition to monitoring the situation of civilians in NAD and Papua provinces, where the ICRC had a permanent presence, delegates from Jakarta and Jayapura carried out assessment missions in Central Sulawesi and in Maluku, where they assisted the long-term displaced on Seram island.

After undertaking assessments at the end of 2005 in areas of NAD province formerly affected by conflict, the ICRC handed over its tsunami-related activities to other humanitarian actors and focused on assisting victims of the past conflict. Following the signing of the memorandum of understanding on NAD in August 2005, IDPs started to go back to their villages in waves. As it was hard to calculate the number of returnees and predict their return, the ICRC constantly updated its records based on assessments and field work and shifted its priorities and resources accordingly. Potential beneficiaries of ICRC assistance were scattered over a huge area and access was often problematic owing to the protracted rainy season or poor roads, requiring a rather weighty logistical and human resources set-up in relation to the number of beneficiaries.

In NAD, the ICRC pursued an integrated approach aimed at post-conflict livelihood rehabilitation. This included providing essential household items, basic agricultural inputs and agricultural training and rehabilitating water and sanitation facilities. The organization also started to revitalize the health system from sub-district down to village level, focusing on mother and child health. The delegation worked in districts that had experienced particular difficulties during the conflict and where few or no other humanitarian organizations were active.

The ICRC kept up visits to prisons and police stations throughout the country. It strengthened dialogue with the detaining authorities and supported efforts to improve detainees’ living conditions and medical care. For the first time, the ICRC was able to visit people detained in connection with the violence in Central Sulawesi.

Interaction with the armed forces, particularly the army and navy, continued, and relations with the Police Mobile Brigade were reinforced. The ICRC took part in high-level events to promote implementation of IHL and gave presentations and conducted seminars on the subject. It also pursued efforts to raise awareness of IHL among members of civil society, focusing on university students and lecturers.

The Indonesian Red Cross Society remained a key operational partner for the ICRC. The ICRC supported the National Society in achieving its strategic goal of being the leading neutral humanitarian organization in Indonesia. Cooperation centred on the development of Red Cross chapters and branches in the conflict-affected provinces of Central Sulawesi and Papua, regions not served by other Movement organizations.

Assistance to conflict-affected IDPs and resident communities

IDPs, returnees and vulnerable residents in districts of NAD worst affected by the conflict received basic agricultural inputs, essential household items and shelter materials to boost their economic security. Improvements were made to the water supply, sanitation facilities and basic infrastructure in the form of construction or rehabilitation of wells, boreholes, rain/spring water collection and storage facilities, latrines and communal washrooms. People affected by violence in Papua and Maluku also received relief supplies and improvements were made to their water supply and sanitation facilities.

Following the outbreak of violence in Timor-Leste, the ICRC delegation in Indonesia provided logistical support and staff reinforcements to the mission in Dili (see Suva).

CIVILIANS

By maintaining a regular presence in areas affected by violence or tensions, the delegation gained a better understanding of how the civilian population was being affected. ICRC delegates monitored the well-being of the population and reported any protection problems it encountered to the relevant authorities. As well as monitoring the situations in NAD and Papua provinces, where it had a permanent presence, the ICRC carried out assessment missions from Jakarta to Central Sulawesi and Maluku.

Main figures and indicators

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<td>Operations</td>
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48,405 people (10,833 households) provided with tools, seeds or vouchers for agricultural inputs.
31,850 people (7,078 households) provided with blankets, sleeping mats, tarpaulins, household kits, kitchen sets, reconstruction kits, hygiene kits and/or jerrycans
16,896 people in 29 villages in NAD and 2 villages in Papua benefited from improved water supply and sanitation and 1,450 benefited from improvements to infrastructure

As part of its integrated assessment of the humanitarian situation in NAD, the ICRC identified medical needs stemming from the past conflict. Projects to revitalize the health system from sub-district down to village level were initiated, with a particular emphasis on mother and child health.

33 health centres in NAD (covering 350,000 people) given supplies on an ad hoc basis, including adult dispensary kits (drugs to treat about 1,000 outpatients), basic emergency medical kits (consisting of medicines, consumables and equipment), weighing scales, stationery for training purposes and vacuum flasks for polio vaccine storage (20,746 doses administered to children aged five and under)
36 nurses, midwives and sub-district health supervisors took part in a three-day train-the-trainer seminar
227 health workers, government officials, security officers from the military and police, community and religious leaders, members of international and local NGOs and National Society volunteers took part in 2 seminars on medical ethics in NAD and Papua provinces

**Restoring family links and tracing missing persons**

As part of a joint ICRC/Indonesian Red Cross project supported by the Canadian Red Cross, surveys of 63 unmarked graves of tsunami victims were carried out in four districts of NAD. The information obtained was to be handed over to the provincial authorities to assist them in creating an official record of gravesites. In addition, the ICRC contributed its expertise to a conference on disaster-victim identification organized by the University of Bandung.

In the first meeting of its kind since the independence of Timor-Leste, the Red Cross Societies of Indonesia and Timor-Leste and the ICRC met to discuss ways to improve cross-border family-links services. They agreed to increase regular direct contact between tracing officers of the two National Societies, to exchange RCMs directly across the border and to organize cross-border transport for families to visit detained relatives in Timor-Leste.

348 RCMs collected from and 183 RCMs distributed to civilians
new tracing requests registered for 18 people (5 females, 6 minors at the time of disappearance); 7 people located; 196 people (38 females, 7 minors at the time of disappearance) still being sought

**Assistance to victims of natural disaster**

2,000 hygiene kits lent to the International Federation to speed up the delivery of assistance to people evacuated because of the volcanic activity in Java
selected Red Cross branches in parts of NAD prone to floods provided with stocks of essential household items to enable them to respond quickly in the event of a natural disaster
4 million litres of clean drinking water trucked to 3,000 people displaced by the tsunami and living in a camp in NAD (before the International Federation took over the task in mid-February); 665 litres of concentrated benzyl benzoate donated to the Australian Red Cross for a mass scabies treatment in 5 IDP camps in Aceh Besar district and 20 litres given to Médecins Sans Frontières-France for use in Pidie district

365 litres of concentrated benzyl benzoate provided by the ICRC for use in Pidie district for a mass scabies treatment in 5 IDP

**WOUNDED AND SICK**

Hospitals and health services in the remoter parts of conflict-affected areas of Indonesia received ICRC material, technical and financial support to boost their capacity to treat patients. Many of the facilities were suffering from a lack of regular supplies owing to access or security problems, and staff rarely benefited from additional training.

Thirty-two hospitals in Jayapura, East Java, Surabaya, Central Sulawesi and NAD received medical supplies, such as first-aid kits, antiseptic povidone-iodine for the treatment of burns, lactated Ringer’s solution for drips, tracheotomy tubes, chest drains, dressing sets, injection sets, spinal needles and epidural packs. This helped them to:

perform 844 operations;
treat 41,548 admissions (27,586 medical, 2,683 surgical, 653 gynaecological/obstetric, 10,626 paediatric);
provide care for 10,939 outpatients (including 5,020 women and 1,603 children).

Furthermore, 48 people from the Central Highlands of Papua recovered their sight following cataract operations sponsored by the ICRC.

20 surgeons, anaesthetists, general practitioners, nurses and National Society volunteers with a medical background attended a three-day workshop on health emergency preparedness in Central Sulawesi

**PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM**

People detained throughout Indonesia in connection with armed conflict and other situations of violence continued to receive visits from the ICRC. Confidential reports were submitted to the authorities after the visits.

The Directorate-General of Corrections of the Ministry of Law and Human Rights asked the ICRC to carry out technical assessments of the water supply and living conditions in three places of detention housing 1,371 detainees. Minor rehabilitation work was also undertaken on the water systems for both drinking and bathing in a fourth prison, benefiting 54 people.

The ICRC took part in a consultative meeting held by the Directorate of Food and Health to formulate national recommendations for sanitation and environmental hygiene standards in detention.

The Directorate-General of Corrections approved an ICRC-designed leaflet onavian flu and a draft medical form for use in the penitentiary system. Five thousand copies of each were printed and submitted for distribution throughout the penitentiary system. Two other leaflets, on HIV/AIDS prevention and the promotion of hygiene and sanitation in prisons, were awaiting official approval at the end of the year.

22,990 detainees visited, 319 of whom followed up individually (1 female, 2 minors), including 144 newly registered (2 minors), during 91 visits to 64 places of detention
30 detainees received ICRC-funded visits from family members
44 RCMs collected from and 10 RCMs distributed to detainees
hygiene and recreational items distributed to detainees on an ad hoc basis
detainees suffering from scabies in 3 places of detention treated with benzyl benzoate provided by the ICRC

**Frontières-France**
Following the signing of the memorandum of understanding on NAD, the military stopped dispatching non-Acehnese troops to the province, and pre-deployment briefing sessions were no longer required. However, similar briefings were provided to soldiers sent to Papua and to Central Sulawesi.

- 40 surgeons, anaesthetists, general practitioners, nurses and medical technicians trained in how to set up and run the field hospital handed over to the Ministry of Health by the Norwegian Red Cross following its deployment during the tsunami response (training conceived by the Norwegian Red Cross and carried out by the Ministry of Health and the Indonesian Red Cross, with the active participation of the ICRC)
- a prosthetic/orthotic technician from Indonesia continued to attend the Cambodian School for Prosthetics and Orthotics

**AUTHORITIES**

The authorities and the ICRC pursued dialogue on IHL issues, such as the ratification of key international treaties. In December, the House of Representatives passed a bill paving the way for ratification of the Ottawa Convention.

Indonesia’s national IHL committee was the main body through which the delegation supported the government’s efforts to implement IHL at national level. In this regard, the ICRC submitted comments pertaining to the inclusion of war crimes in the civil penal code, which was in the process of being revised.

The Ministry of Law and Human Rights welcomed the recommendations contained in a report produced by a group of law lecturers on the revision of national legislation to give families of missing persons access to information on their relatives. The ICRC-sponsored report called for the creation of a national information bureau tasked with searching for, registering and providing information on people missing as a result of an armed conflict or other situation of violence.

**ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS**

**Armed forces**

The Indonesian armed forces, in particular the army and the navy, continued to integrate IHL into their doctrine and training with ICRC support. For the first time, the Ministry of Defence and the ICRC jointly organized two two-day IHL training sessions for 110 military officers involved in drafting policies on IHL implementation.

- 800 officers and senior officers from all over Indonesia given a presentation on IHL at the army Commander’s Call, which the ICRC attended for the first time
- 750 squadron, platoon and company commanders and trainers from 14 battalions attended conflict-simulation training exercises in which the ICRC took part
- 50 non-commissioned officers and junior officers from the army special forces trained as part of a two-week course on IHL and human rights
- 40 junior army legal advisers attended a two-week IHL course
- 42 navy instructors attended a five-day workshop on the use of force at sea
- 140 naval officers attended a presentation on the ICRC as part of an IHL seminar
- 310 naval college students attended IHL dissemination sessions
- 625 soldiers being sent to Papua and 550 soldiers bound for Central Sulawesi attended pre-deployment briefings on IHL

**Police**

The Police Mobile Brigade, a unit deployed in situations of violence, and the ICRC continued work on a new teaching tool on human rights law.

- 2,000 Police Mobile Brigade members attended a pre-deployment briefing on basic human rights
- 60 police officers at Lhokseumawe district police headquarters attended a session on the ICRC and its activities in NAD

**Other armed groups**

Contacts were sought with pro-independence Papuan representatives of the Organisasi Papua Merdeka (Free Papua Movement) outside Indonesia with a view to developing a dialogue on humanitarian issues.

**CIVIL SOCIETY**

Eleven lecturers from nine university law faculties agreed to an ICRC proposal to incorporate elements of IHL into compulsory international law courses. The breakthrough took place during a workshop jointly organized by the ICRC and the law faculty of the Sugiyapranan Catholic University, Central Java.

In another ICRC-facilitated event, a group of 35 deans and lecturers of social and political science faculties discussed ways to integrate key IHL topics into courses on international relations, mass communication, public administration, sociology and social welfare.

- students, lecturers, heads of university departments and sharia judges from Banda Aceh, Jakarta and Lhokseumawe attended lectures and dissemination sessions on IHL and the ICRC
- 8 universities sent teams of law students to compete in a national IHL moot court competition in Jakarta
- 2 students and their coaches attended a regional moot court competition in Hong Kong (see Beijing)
- 2 law lecturers attended the ICRC’s Asian Academic Symposium on contemporary IHL issues held in Malaysia (see Kuala Lumpur)

**RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT**

The National Society continued to be a key operational partner for the ICRC, which contributed to building its capacity through training, material, technical and financial support.

Discussions between the National Society headquarters, National Society leaders from the conflict-prone provinces of Papua and Central Sulawesi and the ICRC led to the launch of a chapter and branch development programme. Common plans of action were drawn up by National Society specialists, with ICRC support, and a training curriculum developed to impart to senior members of chapter and branch governance and management the skills and knowledge required to implement the plans effectively.

A five-year ICRC project supported by the Swedish Red Cross to boost the National Society’s family-links service began in April. Thirty-nine staff members and volunteers representing 20 of Indonesia’s 33 provinces attended training sessions organized with funding and technical support from the ICRC. East Nusa Tenggara chapter received motorbikes and essential equipment to enhance its capacity to provide essential services related to Timor-Leste.
The ICRC began working in Myanmar in 1986, providing physical rehabilitation for mine victims and other disabled people. Since 1999, delegates have visited detainees and monitored the situation of civilians in conflict areas. Where weakened infrastructure, isolation and the security situation have made the population particularly vulnerable, the ICRC meets basic health, water and sanitation needs in villages deemed a priority in protection terms, assists hospitals in treating the wounded and seeks dialogue with government authorities on the protection of civilians. The ICRC also raises awareness and promotes the teaching of IHL and works in coordination with the International Federation to enhance the effectiveness of the National Society.

**CONTEXT**

The ruling State Peace and Development Council completed the move of most of its administrative headquarters to the new site of Naypyidaw. The National Convention, which was expected to lay the foundation of the future constitution, was convened in October before being adjourned at the end of the year.

Leader of the National League for Democracy Aung San Suu Kyi was still under house arrest. She was visited twice by UN Under-Secretary-General Ibrahim Gambari in May and November 2006.

Low-intensity armed conflict between government forces and various armed groups continued to affect the population in large areas of Shan and Kayin states and eastern Bago division. Other violence of varying intensity also persisted, mainly in Kayah and Mon states, as well as Sagaing and Thanintharyi divisions. Following a rise in tension in northern Kayin state, the armed forces launched a military campaign in April against the Karen National Liberation Army. An estimated 2,000 people fled across the border to Thailand and many more were displaced within Myanmar. Negotiations between the Myanmar government and the Karen National Union had not brought tangible results by the end of the year.

The restrictions imposed on humanitarian organizations at the beginning of 2006 continued to limit their capacity to respond to humanitarian needs in the country. These restrictions were given more concrete form later in the year when the authorities issued a set of guidelines governing the activities of international organizations in Myanmar.

**KEY POINTS**

- was informed that ICRC visits to detainees would not be allowed to resume and that its field offices would have to close; after a public statement in November on the current difficulties, the government informed the ICRC that its offices could stay open;
- enabled 745 detainees to receive monthly visits from family members; forwarded 997 RCMs from family members for distribution by the prison authorities, and continued to monitor the situation in places of detention by various means;
- carried out some 113 field missions in border areas to assess the security and living conditions of the civilian population, supported local health services and implemented water and sanitation projects (activities put on hold in October owing to increased restrictions on access to these areas);
- continued to support all 7 prosthetic/orthotic facilities in Myanmar and, with the Myanmar Red Cross Society, referred some 1,000 destitute amputees from remote areas to physical rehabilitation centres;
- provided technical, financial and material assistance to hospitals treating weapon-wounded patients and held 2 emergency room trauma courses for military and civilian surgeons;
- continued to build the capacity of the National Society to deliver effective humanitarian services, in line with the Movement’s Fundamental Principles.
**ICRC ACTION**

In 2006, ICRC activities in Myanmar, which included visiting detainees and assisting vulnerable populations in sensitive border areas, were subject to increasing restrictions. Late in the year, the government of Myanmar ordered the ICRC to close its five field offices in the country (Hpa-an, Kyaing Tong, Mandalay, Mawlamyine and Taunggyi), effectively preventing it from carrying out most of its assistance and protection work benefiting civilians living in difficult conditions in border areas.

Owing to the ICRC’s increased inability to do effective work in Myanmar and to the deterioration, and subsequent cessation, of dialogue with the government, the organization’s activities had to be scaled down towards the end of the year to a few limited projects in the field of physical rehabilitation for amputees. In addition, assistance activities for civilians in sensitive border areas were first severely hampered then prevented completely. The order to close down the field offices was rescinded in December, but no agreement was reached on the ICRC’s future activities in Myanmar.

In the first half of the year, despite restrictions on its movements, the ICRC continued activities to protect and assist civilians living in sensitive areas in eastern Shan and Kayin states. Its level of access to those most affected further deteriorated compared with that of 2005, but ICRC teams supported local health facilities and immunization programmes, and implemented water and sanitation projects in close consultation with local communities.

Towards the end of 2005, ICRC teams had faced growing difficulties in conducting detention visits: the authorities began to challenge some of the ICRC’s standard working procedures. As a result, the ICRC was unable to visit detention facilities; this continued in 2006. In late 2006, the ICRC was officially informed that it would no longer be allowed to carry out its detention visits in accordance with its standard working procedures. Despite the limitations, the delegation continued to enable registered detainees to receive monthly visits from family members and to facilitate the return of released detainees to their places of origin.

As a result of the reduction in activities for detainees and in the various field offices, the delegation gradually reduced its expatriate and national staff set-up in Yangon and in the field.

The ICRC continued to provide substantial assistance to the country’s seven physical rehabilitation facilities. This included training prosthetic/orthotic technicians and supplying specialized components and equipment. The ICRC coordinated with and funded the prosthetic outreach programme of the Myanmar Red Cross Society, which complemented ICRC efforts by referring amputees from remote areas to the aforementioned facilities. The ICRC also covered the cost of treating wounded, provided hospitals with technical and material assistance and held two courses on emergency room trauma for military and civilian surgeons.

Efforts to promote knowledge of the ICRC mandate, IHL and the Fundamental Principles were constrained by the authorities’ move to the new capital. Nevertheless, senior government officials continued to participate in IHL-related events and activities organized by the ICRC. Significant efforts were made to inform government decision-makers about the ICRC’s role and mandate through a series of printed materials translated into the Myanmar language, letters, informal briefing papers, and meetings. Two summary reports on humanitarian issues of concern to the ICRC were submitted to the government.

ICRC dissemination activities took place at field level and often in coordination with the Myanmar Red Cross Society. The ICRC continued to build up the capacity of the National Society, not only in the field of dissemination, but also in tracing, conflict preparedness, referral of amputees, first aid and mass casualty management. The leadership of the Myanmar Red Cross Society changed in November.

**CIVILIANS**

With regard to the situation in northern Kayin state, the ICRC reminded the belligerent parties of their obligations under IHL and offered its services to assist them in its application.

**Improving living conditions for civilians affected by the hostilities**

In order to assess the humanitarian situation and to carry out assistance activities in certain areas of eastern and southern Shan state, Kayin state, Mon state and Thanintharyi division, the delegation undertook more than 70 field missions between January and May, while only 43 field missions could be carried out in the second part of the year. The constraints faced by the ICRC in carrying out...
its activities for civilians in sensitive border areas increased significantly in the second half of 2006. While waiting for clarification from the government regarding the implementation of its mandate in these areas, the ICRC’s field activities were put on hold in October. The organization was not able to gain access to Kayah state and certain other areas affected by hostilities during the year.

- 615 RCMs collected from and 719 distributed to civilians
- new tracing requests registered for 33 people (2 women); 49 people (6 women) still being sought

The cold chain in Kayin state received ICRC logistical support. Community health volunteers in Hlaing Bwe received assistance, including basic medical kits and the means to diagnose and treat malaria.

In the 11 ICRC-supported health centres (catchment population: 22,165), 15,651 vaccine doses were administered (10,929 to children aged five or under and 4,722 to women of childbearing age).

People in the southern part of Kayin state had improved access to a safe water supply thanks to new or rehabilitated boreholes. The same people learned how to improve hygiene practices during ICRC-run information sessions in seven villages. In eastern Shan state, 280 children benefited from two wells, an improved gravity-fed water supply, a hygiene area, four double latrines and a rehabilitated school. Another village of 41 households was provided with a 2.5 km gravity-fed water supply.

- 10,670 people benefited from completed (630 people) and ongoing (10,040 people) water and sanitation projects
- 980 people benefited from ongoing habitat/shelter projects

Reducing mine injuries
The delegation continued to gather information on the use of landmines from several sources, such as field assessments and data from the physical rehabilitation programme. However, aside from posters distributed in areas of Kayin state, lack of access to the mine-affected population led the delegation to suspend its mine-risk education programme.

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM
Towards the end of 2005, ICRC teams had faced increasing difficulties in conducting detention visits, and the authorities had begun to challenge some of its standard working procedures. As a result, the ICRC was unable to visit detention facilities. This situation remained unchanged during the year. Nonetheless, the delegation continued to monitor the situation in places of detention through reliable and trusted sources. Relevant authorities received a report summarizing ICRC findings regarding the conditions of detention observed during visits to prisons and labour camps between 1999 and 2005.

Detainees continued to benefit from monthly family visits supported by the ICRC. Furthermore, in the first half of the year, RCMs collected by the ICRC during detention visits in 2005 continued to be delivered to families by the National Society, and replies were forwarded to the Prisons Department for distribution to the detainees concerned.

The joint working group, which aimed to mobilize public health actors and advocate changes in the prison health care system, met three times in 2006. It was an occasion for the relevant authorities to commit themselves to addressing the issue of tuberculosis in prisons.

- 745 ICRC-registered detainees (18 females, 19 minors) received visits from family members
- 711 RCMs collected from detainees in 2005 delivered to their families
- 997 RCMs from family members (615 of which were collected in 2006) given to the Prison Department for delivery to detainees
- 60 certificates of detention issued for former detainees or their families
- construction of a water supply system for Hpa-an prison (560 inmates) in Kayin state was ongoing

WOUNDED AND SICK
Owing to restricted access, the ICRC was unable to systematically visit hospitals located in sensitive border areas. However, weapon-wounded patients had the costs of their medical care covered, civilian and military medical facilities were given supplies, and medical personnel attended training events.

- 4 hospitals supported with supplies treated 24 weapon-wounded, including 23 injured by mines/explosive remnants of war
- 41 patients, all landmine victims, given financial assistance for their medical care
- 4 medical facilities (81 beds) in Kayin, Mon and southern Shan states benefited from rehabilitation or maintenance work and for 1 medical facility (50 beds) in Kayin work was ongoing
- 2 military surgeons attended an ICRC war-surgery seminar in Geneva, Switzerland
- 26 military and 4 civilian surgeons and anaesthetists attended 2 courses to improve management of trauma patients in emergency rooms
- information collected on 145 victims of hostilities

Physical rehabilitation
The National Society and the ICRC continued to run the Hpa-an physical rehabilitation centre. The other six prosthetic/orthotic facilities in Myanmar run either by the Ministry of Health or the Ministry of Defence received equipment, orthopaedic components and raw materials from the ICRC. Technicians in the units run by the Ministry of Health were given monetary incentives.

Following the successful opening of the prosthetic/orthotic unit of Aung Ban No. 2 military hospital (southern Shan state) to civilian patients with weapon injuries, the Ministry of Defence agreed to the ICRC’s proposal to open the Pyin Oo Lwin No. 1 military hospital (Mandalay division) to civilian patients.

The three Myanmar students whose training at the Cambodian School of Prosthetics and Orthotics was sponsored by the ICRC passed their final examination and returned to Myanmar; they were reintegrated into the joint National Society/ICRC-run Hpa-an physical rehabilitation centre. Furthermore, technicians from prosthetic/orthotic units managed by the Ministries of Defence and of Health attended regular refresher courses on the manufacture of prostheses.

The National Society/ICRC outreach prosthetic programme continued to identify vulnerable amputees throughout the country, in particular from remote border areas. Patients were then transported, accommodated, and provided with free prosthetic treatment at ICRC-supported centres.

- 6 physical rehabilitation centres supported by the ICRC and 1 run directly by the ICRC/National Society
- 6,099 patients (589 women and 346 children) received services at the 7 centres
- 1,097 patients benefited from improved access to prosthetic services through the outreach prosthetic programme
841 new patients (89 women and 35 children) fitted with prostheses and 1,006 (211 women and 236 children) with orthoses
2,636 prostheses (192 for women and 88 for children; 1,741 for mine victims), 1,028 orthoses (213 for women and 401 for children; 7 for mine victims), 3,392 crutches and 34 wheelchairs delivered

ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

Officials from the Ministry of Defence and the ICRC maintained contact over the year. Members of the armed forces attended presentations on IHL during field dissemination sessions and regional IHL seminars.

Through its delegation in Bangkok, the ICRC kept up regular contact with representatives of Myanmar armed groups in Thailand, present in areas where the Myanmar delegation carried out activities for civilians. This contact contributed to securing respect for the ICRC’s standard working methods and for the security of its teams during field activities. It also facilitated discussions on IHL-related matters, such as the protection of civilians living in the areas in which the groups were operating.

CIVIL SOCIETY

The media in Myanmar covered ICRC activities elsewhere in the world. Local events, such as physical rehabilitation services, also received coverage.

3 universities received IHL reference libraries
a professor of international law at Yangon University attended an ICRC-organized round-table on customary IHL in Beijing, China
representatives of Myanmar’s Maternal and Child Welfare Association, a government-affiliated group run by the wives of government and military officials, attended a presentation on the ICRC’s mandate and activities
48 individuals, including teachers and students majoring in law and international relations from Yangon and Dagon universities, students from the Myanmar Institute of Theology and government officials from the Supreme Court and the Attorney-General’s Office received ICRC and IHL literature from the ICRC resource centre

RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT

Less than two years after it came into office, the leadership of the National Society was replaced in November. The new leadership and the ICRC pursued discussions on cooperation.

The National Society remained an important operational partner of the ICRC in the implementation of the outreach prosthetic programme (see Wounded and sick). National Society project officers in the nine priority branches completed their first training session, and new information leaflets were distributed in these areas.

In order to promote understanding of and respect for the Fundamental Principles among the National Society’s leadership, staff and volunteers, capacity-building events in the fields of communication and dissemination continued to receive ICRC funding and support.

The National Society’s tracing service continued to benefit from ICRC financial and technical support, albeit on a reduced scale given the interruption of prison visits and thus the cessation of RCM collection (see People deprived of their freedom).

25 township branches provided with first-aid teaching kits
70 volunteers attended 2 courses on community-based first aid
63 volunteers attended 2 courses on disaster assessment and response
28 volunteers from 9 branches attended the first training session on amputee referral procedures
335 volunteers and police officers participated in 9 dissemination training courses at township level in 5 provinces
Hostilities flared up again in January after the three-month unilateral ceasefire that the Communist Party of Nepal-Maoist (CPN-M) had declared expired. Maoist fighters attacked several district headquarters, destroying government buildings, freeing prisoners and in some cases detaining civil servants and security personnel. At the same time, the Seven Party Alliance (SPA), which at the end of 2005 had reached an understanding with the CPN-M on common goals, made bold moves in opposing the royal government. In April, the SPA declared an unlimited general strike, bringing the country to a halt with mass demonstrations in all major towns. Twenty-one people were killed and thousands injured as curfews were enforced by security personnel who had orders to shoot on sight. Faced with the popular protest, King Gyanendra agreed to reinstate parliament.

In October, the SPA and the CPN-M agreed on an agenda for the coming months, including the signing of a peace accord, the creation of an interim constitution, legislature and government and the holding of elections for a constituent assembly in June 2007, which would decide the future of the monarchy. During the interim period, the Nepalese Army would be quartered in its cantonments across the country.

The Janatantrik Terai Mukti Morcha, a breakaway Maoist faction, claimed that the new interim constitution failed to address discrimination against the Madhesis, the people of the Terai, and vowed to fight for their rights through violent means. Towards the end of the year, a general strike in Nepalgunj called by a political party close to the Madhesis turned into inter-communal violence between the Madhesis and the Pahadis hill people.
In 2006, the ICRC adapted its activities to respond to the changing situation in Nepal. This included downsizing the number of staff and moving towards activities that addressed needs in the fragile post-conflict environment. Until April, ICRC operations in Nepal focused on protection activities, such as visiting detainees, documenting alleged violations of IHL and helping families to clarify the fate or whereabouts of relatives who remained unaccounted for. The ICRC also undertook assistance activities, including support to hospitals treating the wounded, rehabilitation services for amputees, distribution of essential household items and vital productive assets to victims of the conflict, and implementation of extensive water supply and sanitation projects in jails, remote villages and hospitals.

Both the government and the CPN-M respected the ICRC’s neutrality and understood its role, and on occasion requested the organization’s services as a neutral intermediary. Both sides allowed the ICRC to travel freely in areas under their control, enabling its staff to work safely throughout the country. Maintaining an effective field presence, however, proved time-consuming and labour-intensive: up to 13 field teams worked out of offices in Kathmandu, Nepalgunj, Pokhara, Silgadhi and Biratnagar, making long trips over rough terrain, often on foot. Thanks to these efforts, the ICRC was able to verify and update information on foot. Thanks to these efforts, the ICRC worked out of offices in Kathmandu, and labour-intensive: up to 13 field teams maintained an effective field presence in the areas most affected by the conflict, the ICRC monitored the safety and well-being of civilians. Its teams collected and analysed information on alleged IHL violations, including indiscriminate aerial attacks, looting of hospitals and use of Red Cross buildings as fighting positions, and transmitted their findings to the authorities or leadership of the party involved, pointing out trends and risks and urging them to fulfill their obligations under IHL. Reports of summary executions, disappearances and attacks on civilians significantly decreased following the April events.

Displaced families and villages affected by the conflict

People in 79 isolated villages benefited from water, sanitation and irrigation projects. Many villages cut off by the conflict were unable to repair or maintain their water systems, as government technicians and administrators had often fled and restrictions on movement prevented people from travelling to district headquarters to obtain the tools or spare parts needed for maintenance and repair. In a programme run jointly by the ICRC and the National Society, villagers from the conflict-affected districts of Dailekh, Jumla and Taplejung received technical training in water system maintenance and then worked with local user committees to decide how best to solve each village’s water problems. Following the training, tools and spare parts were distributed to allow the user committees to undertake basic maintenance themselves.

► 28,050 people (some 5,000 households) benefited from ongoing water and sanitation projects

Families who were forced to flee their homes or whose breadwinners had disappeared, been arrested, disabled or wounded were able to get essential household items from their local Red Cross branches, which distributed assistance on a case-by-case basis. The cessation of hostilities in April and the resulting decrease in needs resulted in fewer essential household items being distributed than initially planned. Although food distribution was not deemed necessary, regular monitoring of village economies indicated that many households were

**CIVILIANS**

**Threats to civilian security and livelihood**

Both parties to the conflict imposed restrictions on movement and these, along with the threat of violence on the roads, impeded both trade and temporary labour migration necessary to supplement income from agriculture in the country’s poorest areas. General strikes also interrupted work, school and other activities. By keeping a regular field presence in the areas most affected by the conflict, the ICRC monitored the safety and well-being of civilians. Its teams collected and analysed information on alleged IHL violations, including indiscriminate aerial attacks, looting of hospitals and use of Red Cross buildings as fighting positions, and transmitted their findings to the authorities or leadership of the party involved, pointing out trends and risks and urging them to fulfill their obligations under IHL. Reports of summary executions, disappearances and attacks on civilians significantly decreased following the April events.

**MAIN FIGURES AND INDICATORS**

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**RESTORING FAMILY LINKS**

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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Places</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
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facing serious difficulties in meeting their basic and diverse needs in a sustainable manner. In response, the ICRC shifted its approach during the year from providing direct assistance to victims to micro-economic initiatives carried out in cooperation with the National Society.

- 8,428 people (1,533 households) received essential household items or cash-for-kind assistance to restore their livelihoods disrupted by the conflict.
- 372 people (72 households) benefited from agricultural, livestock and micro-economic initiatives.

**Recruitment of minors**

During the conflict, an unknown number of children were used by Maoist fighters as cooks, messengers or porters and were exposed to the dangers of military operations. Those who had surrendered or been arrested often risked harassment or reprisal if they returned to their villages after being released by the government. Some of these children received help from the ICRC in finding shelter with local NGOs and in keeping in touch with their families through the exchange of RCMs, direct visits every two months and, if the security situation permitted, being reunited with their families. Despite earlier reports that thousands of minors might be part of the CPN-M, there was no mass identification of such minors by the organizations concerned with their welfare.

- 39 demobilized minors and 2 unaccompanied children newly registered; 4 reunited with their families; 56 cases still being handled and monitored by the ICRC.

**Tracing the missing**

By the end of 2006, the ICRC had collected the names of some 800 people reported to be still missing by their families. Some of those sought were women and children. Without systematic notification of arrests, families did not know whether missing relatives were alive or dead. If they knew of their arrest, they did not know where they were held. Many requested the ICRC’s assistance in locating them. The organization cross-checked lists of detainees it had visited and, if the person sought remained unaccounted for, submitted his or her name to the army, the police or the CPN-M in order to obtain information for the family.

The government provided answers to the ICRC on the whereabouts of some of the people. Few answers were provided by the CPN-M. Between July and December, ICRC delegates systematically revisited all families of the missing in order to gather potential new information. This process also allowed for the collection of new tracing requests.

- new tracing requests registered for 641 people (including 73 women and 80 minors at the time of disappearance); the families of 527 people learned of their relatives’ fate and, in some cases, whereabouts; 836 cases (including 89 women and 102 minors) still being processed.
- 408 RCMs collected from and 415 RCMs distributed to civilians, including 76 from and 68 to demobilized minors/unaccompanied children.

**PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM**

**Detainees held in government custody**

Before the political changes, the government arrested many people in connection with the conflict and held them in jails, police stations and army camps. After April, most of the persons held under the Terrorist and Disruptive Activities Act were released.

Regular detention visits were conducted throughout 2006. In February, the ICRC resumed visits to detainees held by the former Royal Nepalese Army that had been suspended in April 2005. Detention visits helped the ICRC identify issues and offer technical assistance to the authorities’ efforts to improve the treatment and living conditions of detainees. With some facilities holding more than twice as many detainees as they were built to accommodate, overcrowding was often a major problem in Nepali jails. Inmates benefited from improved prison conditions thanks to repairs or upgrades to the water supply, sanitation, kitchen facilities and roofing carried out by the prison authorities in cooperation with the ICRC. Depending on the urgency of the problem, ICRC engineers provided either rapid support or a more extensive intervention, including efforts to use appropriate renewable energy options.

People arrested during demonstrations in April, including several prominent activists and political leaders, benefited from the protection afforded by ICRC visits.

- 7,548 detainees visited, 1,009 monitored individually (168 women, 91 minors) including 434 newly registered (66 women, 61 minors), during 309 visits to 224 places of detention.
- 81 detainees (8 women, 6 minors) received visits from their relatives with the support of the ICRC.
- 450 detainees benefited from completed shelter, water and sanitation improvements in 5 places of detention; 3 female detainees had their cells enlarged.
- 4,735 detainees in 7 places of detention, including the female section of one prison, will benefit from similar projects still in progress.

**People held by the CPN-M**

The CPN-M continued to arrest people after April, mainly on charges unrelated to the conflict. Some of the people held by the CPN-M were registered and visited by the ICRC in different locations. Nevertheless, it was not known how many others were held. Visits aimed to assess conditions of detention.

- 59 detainees visited, 31 monitored individually (1 woman) including 30 newly registered, during 18 visits to 16 places of detention.

**Family links**

- 287 RCMs collected from and 191 RCMs distributed to detainees in government custody or held by the CPN-M.

**WOUNDED AND SICK**

**Medical care for the war-wounded**

Medical activities focused on supporting the treatment of conflict victims. Fourteen medical facilities in key locations benefited from ICRC support. The Tribhuvan University Teaching Hospital in Kathmandu, the Bheri Zonal Hospital in Nepalgunj and 12 other medical facilities received supplies such as dressing materials, essential medicines, X-ray films and medical instruments. Individuals with weapon injuries had the cost of their treatment covered when they could not afford it or when it was not provided or reimbursed by the government.

- 1,219 weapon-wounded treated mainly during the massive demonstrations in April and by the main hospitals in Kathmandu, with ICRC-provided medical supplies.
- 185 weapon-wounded received ICRC financial support to cover transportation expenses.
14 post-surgery patients received financial support and follow-up visits from the ICRC.

A total of 139 CPN-M health staff attended ICRC-organized first-aid and war-surgery courses between January and July. After discussion with the CPN-M and in light of the prevailing peace and improved access to hospitals, these training sessions ceased after July.

Physical rehabilitation for the disabled

The training programme at the prosthetic/orthotic workshop in the Green Pastures Hospital in Pokhara continued. Staff benefited from the technical expertise and training provided by an ICRC physiotherapist and an ICRC prosthetic/orthotic technician.

- 1,085 patients (295 women and 108 children) received services at the ICRC-supported physical rehabilitation centre
- 122 new patients (34 women and 9 children) fitted with prostheses and 15 (3 women and 4 children) with orthoses
- 131 prostheses (38 for women and 9 for children; 8 for mine victims), 15 orthoses (3 for women and 4 for children) fitted, 117 crutches and 1 wheelchair delivered

AUTHORITIES

In response to the changes in the security and political environment, the ICRC focused its attention on raising specific aspects of IHL with the authorities, such as the issue of persons unaccounted for in connection with the conflict and the specific needs of returnees and children.

The reinstatement of parliament and the signing of the peace agreement created a new momentum for the ratification and implementation of IHL instruments in Nepal, about which the relevant authorities engaged in constructive dialogue with the ICRC. Following meetings between the minister of Foreign Affairs and the ICRC, the draft Geneva Conventions Act, originally submitted to the ministry in 2004, was again put forward for consideration.

In July, parliament instructed the government to ratify the Rome Statute. Following this decision, parliamentarians and members of the ceasefire committee participated in two round-tables on IHL implementation, in particular the Rome Statute, and attended a presentation on ICRC activities relating to people unaccounted for in connection with the armed conflict and for IDPs. Officials from the Ministry of Law and Justice participated in a round-table on the ratification and implementation of IHL treaties and the role of a national IHL committee.

- 4 representatives from the Ministries of Law and Justice and of Defence attended regional IHL courses and seminars with ICRC assistance, gaining a better understanding of the ICRC’s mandate and activities

ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

During the conflict, the ICRC urged all parties to comply with their obligations under IHL. It conducted regular presentations on IHL for the armed and security forces and the Maoist People’s Liberation Army (PLA), the armed wing of the CPN-M.

The ICRC intensified its efforts to increase the capacities of the Nepalese Army, Armed Police Force and the Nepal Police to train their members in IHL and international human rights law as applicable.

- 51 Nepalese Army, 66 Armed Police Force and 26 police trainers attended IHL train-the-trainer seminars and received IHL teaching kits
- 51 IHL train-the-trainer seminars and received IHL teaching kits

With some of the newly trained instructors, these forces began conducting their own courses on IHL and international human rights law for headquarters personnel and units located throughout Nepal.

Representatives of the CPN-M/PLA and the ICRC held numerous discussions on IHL and the ICRC’s mandate and activities.

With ICRC support:

- 2 high-ranking Nepalese Army officers attended a seminar on landmines and explosive remnants of war in New Delhi, India (see New Delhi);
- 2 Nepalese Army and Armed Police Force officers attended the 9th South Asian Teaching Session on IHL and Refugee Law in New Delhi (see New Delhi).

With the assistance of the army participants in the above events, a joint ICRC/Nepalese Army Core Group, chaired by the army chief of staff, was established to decide on measures to enhance the Nepalese Army’s IHL education and training programme.

The Armed Police Force developed a human rights manual for its personnel, with the ICRC’s technical input.

CIVIL SOCIETY

Following the organization of a training programme on IHL for lawyers, the Nepal Bar Association began to incorporate IHL into its course on human rights. Thanks to the excellent working relationship between the ICRC and the Kathmandu School of Law, the latter introduced a one-year master’s degree in IHL and conflict, to which the ICRC contributed ad hoc presentations on IHL and the ICRC’s mandate and activities. A team from the Kathmandu School of Law participated in the regional IHL moot court competition (see New Delhi).

The ICRC stepped up its collaboration with human rights organizations active in Nepal in order to increase awareness of IHL. Even though journalists’ interest in IHL had grown, coverage of the humanitarian aspects of conflict was still limited. Public awareness of IHL was increased through the distribution of revised ICRC publications and new dissemination material on humanitarian issues and/or ICRC activities and through regular radio spots and press releases.

- 102 human rights activists attended 4 ICRC-organized IHL seminars
- 46 lawyers and 46 journalists received IHL training
First aid
The National Society’s ability to assist conflict victims was enhanced through ICRC financial and technical support. Its Central Executive Committee and all 75 district chapter presidents attended four workshops on “Conflict Preparedness and Response Capacity” to approve national policies and guidelines aimed at safeguarding the independence, neutrality and impartiality of the organization and at ensuring its acceptance by all parties to the conflict.

The National Society provided first aid to some 3,000 people injured in demonstrations. Members of all 75 National Society district chapters participated in training courses on the Safer Access approach. The courses were designed to improve conflict analysis skills and contribute to the security and effectiveness of the branches’ work. To increase its presence in districts seriously affected by the conflict, the National Society trained 720 first-aid volunteers and 42 trainers in 10 district chapters.

Restoration of family links and IHL promotion
National Society branches distributed RCMs in all 75 districts of the country. Members of the district branches attended courses on tracing and RCM activities. In all, the National Society reached more than 40,000 people through various activities to raise awareness of IHL and the Fundamental Principles, with the help of 35 focal points in 35 district chapters. With the aim of increasing public awareness of IHL, the National Society produced newsletters and other dissemination material, developed a manual for field disseminators and broadcast a weekly radio programme, while pursuing its campaign to prevent misuse of the emblem.

Mine action
In order to conduct mine-risk education in 20 districts, the National Society trained 40 youth volunteers, who carried out activities to alert some 26,000 schoolchildren and adults to the dangers of mines.
The ICRC began working in Pakistan in 1981 to assist victims of the conflict in Afghanistan. Its operations now focus on the situation in Pakistan and include: visiting some groups of security detainees and seeking access to others; assisting victims of conflict and natural disaster; improving care of the war-wounded and the disabled; promoting compliance with IHL among officials and military forces; fostering dialogue with Islamic scholars and the media on IHL-related issues, the conduct of hostilities and neutral and independent humanitarian action; and supporting the Pakistan Red Crescent Society in enhancing its response capacity, particularly in areas near the Line of Control and the Afghan border.

In January, a missile fired by the United States killed 15 civilians in Bajaur agency in the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA), sparking waves of protest in Pakistani cities. Anti-Western violence erupted again in March when US President Bush visited the region. A suicide attack near the US consulate in Karachi killed a US diplomat while President Bush was in New Delhi. In October, some 80 people were killed in an air strike carried out by Pakistani forces on a madrassa in Bajaur agency. The attack was followed by a suicide bombing of a military base in the town of Dargai, which killed more than 40 soldiers. Violence between Sunni and Shia extremist groups persisted countrywide.

The government stepped up military operations in North Waziristan in response to an increase in violence early in the year. In September, the government signed a peace agreement with militants in the region. South Waziristan, meanwhile, remained calm.

Violence flared up again in Baluchistan, with rocket attacks and bombings becoming daily occurrences and security forces deployed in most of Dera Bugti and Kohlu districts. The Baluch nationalist leader Nawab Akbar Khan Bugti was killed in a military operation in the Dera Bugti district in August. Following his death, there were fewer alleged attacks by the banned Baluchistan Liberation Army.

Relations between Pakistan and India continued to improve as trade and “people-to-people” contacts increased. Resolving the Kashmir question remained a priority for both countries, but no significant progress in achieving this end was made in 2006. Relations between Pakistan and Afghanistan deteriorated towards the end of the year, with Pakistan threatening to fence and mine sections of its border with Afghanistan.

The government worked with many national and international organizations to provide shelter, food and other vital assistance to earthquake survivors in Pakistan-administered Kashmir and North-West Frontier Province (NWFP). Mild winter weather helped avert the worst consequences of the disaster, and most food deliveries stopped in March when the earthquake response shifted from the emergency to the recovery phase. The many IDPs who had settled in Muzaffarabad and other areas began returning to their villages when spring came. Efforts to rebuild houses were hampered by logistical difficulties due to the rough and isolated terrain, but most families had shelter for the winter. Property issues continued to affect many who returned home. Larger infrastructure projects, including new towns in Muzaffarabad and Balakot districts, made slow progress.

In 2006, the ICRC:

- continued to support the medical care of people wounded in military operations and to provide rehabilitation services to the disabled living in conflict- or earthquake-affected areas;
- followed up detainees repatriated from Afghanistan and the US detention facility at Guantanamo Bay Naval Station, Cuba and helped them reintegrate into society following their release; pursued efforts to gain access to detainees held in connection with military and security operations;
- maintained emergency assistance to earthquake victims through the winter, closing its field hospital in Muzaffarabad in February and ending large-scale relief distributions in March;
- from spring onwards, carried out programmes to help the earthquake-affected population gradually return to normal life, including supporting and rebuilding selected health structures, rehabilitating rural water systems and aiding agricultural production through seed distributions and livestock programmes;
- cooperated with and provided support to the Pakistan Red Crescent Society in responding to needs arising from the earthquake, in close coordination with the International Federation.

The following table presents the ICRC’s expenditure and personnel during 2006:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Key Points</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Protection</td>
<td>2,696</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assistance</td>
<td>46,656</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prevention</td>
<td>1,812</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cooperation with National Societies</td>
<td>1,381</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>52,545</td>
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<td>of which:</td>
<td>Overheads</td>
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</table>

**CONTEXT**

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ICRC ACTION

The ICRC continued its activities for victims of armed confrontations in Pakistan. It followed the cases of detainees repatriated from Afghanistan and the US detention facility at the Guantanamo Bay Naval Station, Cuba, helped families in Pakistan maintain contact with relatives detained abroad, supported hospitals treating the wounded and improved access to physical rehabilitation services for disabled people living in isolated areas affected by security operations. During the year, the ICRC intensified its dialogue with the authorities to obtain access to security detainees throughout the country.

In parallel to these activities, the delegation devoted significant resources to assisting earthquake survivors in Pakistan-administered Kashmir. In consultation with the authorities and the many international organizations and bodies involved in the relief effort and with the support of the Pakistan Red Crescent Society, it distributed shelter material, food and other relief to civilians living in high-altitude and remote areas that were reached by few other humanitarian organizations. In addition to launching its largest-ever helicopter operation to distribute aid in these areas, the ICRC made deliveries by truck to places that were accessible by road. Milder than usual weather contributed to the operation’s success.

The Federal Relief Commission, which led relief efforts until spring, facilitated the work of the many organizations involved. While retaining its independence in needs assessment, relief distributions and logistics, the ICRC coordinated its work with that of other humanitarian agencies, including those participating in the pilot “cluster system”, in order to avoid duplication or gaps in the delivery of aid to those most in need.

The International Federation and the ICRC divided their earthquake response by geographical area, the ICRC covering Pakistan-administered Kashmir and the International Federation covering areas in NWFP. Within the area it covered, the ICRC focused on the Neelum and Jhelum valleys, areas that before the ceasefire at the end of 2003 had been long affected by crossfire at the Line of Control between India and Pakistan and had been hardest hit by the earthquake.

The ICRC ran a 100-bed field hospital provided by the Finnish and Norwegian Red Cross Societies and four basic health care units provided by the German, Finnish, Japanese and Norwegian Red Cross Societies, one in Muzaffarabad town, two in Jhelum valley (Chinari and Chham), and one in Neelum valley (Pattika). Demand for hospital services had dropped by February, and the ICRC closed the field hospital and donated the packed-up facility to the Ministry of Health, after training 67 of the ministry’s staff in its use. Throughout the country, the ICRC worked in partnership with the Pakistan Red Crescent Society to restore contact between family members separated as a result of the earthquake. It gave priority to registering unaccompanied minors and where appropriate, reuniting them with their families.

When spring came, the ICRC ended the helicopter operation and focused its attention on aiding recovery, providing farmers with seeds, fertilizer and tools to resume agricultural production and carrying out a livestock programme with the German Red Cross. The ICRC also began to help the authorities restore public services, including by training Ministry of Health staff. Emphasis was also placed on rehabilitating rural water systems and beginning the construction of a physical rehabilitation centre in Muzaffarabad. Patients from earthquake-affected areas received treatment and physiotherapy services in centres supported by the ICRC.

CIVILIANS

Assisting residents and the displaced
To assess the impact of armed confrontations on the civilian population, the ICRC conducted a four-day mission in Baluchistan at the end of December 2005. It covered areas around Dera Bugti and Kohlu districts where IDPs were likely to gather and found no immediate need for assistance. In mid-February, the ICRC made a visit to Dera Ghazi Khan in Southern Punjab to assess...
the needs of Baluch IDPs living there. The
government later transferred the IDPs back to Dera Bugti. The ICRC planned to
continue such monitoring, but by the end of
the year had been unable to visit the
districts most directly affected by armed
violence.

In 2005, the ICRC had begun to improve
access to water for people displaced at the
Line of Control and still living in camps in
Skardu because they were, as yet, unable to
return to their villages. The work continued
in 2006. The laying of the pipeline to
Brolmo II IDP camp was completed by
early December.

Also in the Skardu district, but closer to the
Line of Control, torrential rainstorms in
July caused landslides, which destroyed
36 houses and damaged another 8. A total
of 418 people were directly affected and
displaced. To help them cope with extreme
winter weather, the survivors were given
shelter materials, blankets and food by
the ICRC.

Earthquake victims in Pakistan-administered
Kashmir also received assistance. From
January to mid-February, people living in
13 Union Councils of Pakistan-administered
Kashmir were provided with food and essen-
tial household items. Those areas that were
still without an adequate food supply
received a second round of rations between
mid-February and the end of March, after
which distributions ceased.

As most homes had been destroyed, the
biggest threat to survival was the cold.
Earthquake survivors received blankets,
kitchen sets, jerrycans, winter clothing,
towels, shoes, children’s clothing and
emergency shelter materials from the
ICRC. Families living in high-altitude rural
areas that could not be reached by road
built structures from corrugated metal
sheeting delivered by ICRC helicopter, to
protect themselves from the elements. In
many places, the relief distributions were
carried out by National Society volunteers.

Residents of two smaller towns in the
Jhelum valley had water delivered by ICRC
tanker. Subsequently, rural residents of
six Union Councils of Muzaffarabad
district built gravity-fed water schemes for
irrigation and home consumption with
materials and technical support from the
ICRC, provided in consultation with village
water committees. The villagers were skilled
and motivated, so the projects progressed
well: 10 were completed by the end of the
year and 27 more were in progress.

70,142 people throughout Pakistan
benefited from improvements to
their water supply and sanitation
through completed (21,884 people)
and ongoing (48,258 people)
projects

The destruction of fields and the loss of
plough animals in the earthquake set back
agricultural production. Starting in the
spring, farmers in the eight poorest or least
accessible Union Councils of Muzaffarabad
district were able to cultivate their land
once again using tools, seeds and fertilizer
provided by the ICRC and distributed with
the help of the National Society. In the
Neelum valley, through a project run jointly
with the German Red Cross, households that
had lost their livestock received one cow
and one calf each from which to obtain milk
and improve their nutrition. In 14 high-
altitude villages in the Jhelum valley, some
10,500 grafted walnut saplings, able to
produce higher-quality nuts than the
indigenous trees, were distributed in order
to boost the long-term cash income of the
beneficiaries.

211,722 people (30,246 households)
received seeds, tools and fertilizer,
of whom 12,698 people
(1,814 households) received
walnut saplings
9,268 people (1,324 households)
received a milking cow with its calf

Helping restore medical services
destroyed by the earthquake
The German, Finnish, Japanese and
Norwegian Red Cross Societies each
provided and/or staffed one basic health
care unit in Muzaffarabad, Pattika (Neelum
valley), Chinari and Chham (Jhelum
valley). Another health centre was given
ad hoc support in January. With the return of
IDPs to their homes in spring, the demand
for medical services in Muzaffarabad fell,
and the ICRC closed its basic health care
unit there in May. The others stayed open,
and at the government’s request, the ICRC
took over support for the rural health
centre in Dhanzi (Neelum valley) at the
end of March. The ICRC continued to
provide staff support, consumables and
training and to strengthen outreach activ-
ties, while the government gradually took
over responsibility for running the services.

In the 6 ICRC-supported health centres
(catchment population: 1,328,000):
92,685 consultations (10,420 ante/
postnatal, 82,265 curative) were
given;
42,726 vaccine doses were administered
(33,895 to children aged five or
under and 8,831 to women of
childbearing age);
health staff working in basic health
units attended 12 refresher sessions.

Tracing the missing and helping
maintain family links
Families dispersed following armed con-
frontations, arrests or the earthquake used
RCMs to locate and keep in contact with
one another. When people who suspected
that their relatives had been detained in
neighbouring countries approached the
ICRC for verification, the ICRC cross-
checked its records of detainees visited and
informed the families of the results.
In partnership with the National Society, the
ICRC sought to determine the whereabouts
or fate of persons reported missing after the
earthquake. This involved checking official
records, interviewing potential witnesses,
keeping in close contact with families search-
ing for relatives and conducting various
media and awareness campaigns. As a result
of these efforts, 5 children and several other
people were reunited with their families.
Efforts to build the capacity of the National
Society’s tracing service continued.
In the 14 ICRC-supported hospitals:

- 1,159 patients (142 women and 198 children) admitted:
  - 844 weapon-wounded (77 women, 90 children, 71 people injured by mines or explosive remnants of war);
  - 98 other surgical cases; 101 medical, 18 gynaecological/obstetric, and 98 paediatric patients;
  - 3,137 surgical operations performed;
  - 650 outpatient consultations given.

In order to enhance their skills, health professionals received training from the ICRC:

- Administrative health staff in the FATA attended an ICRC-conducted seminar aimed at improving coordination with health authorities;
- Surgeons from referral hospitals in the FATA attended courses and a seminar on war surgery;
- Local staff from the same hospitals received ICRC training aimed at improving the quality of medical care.

**Care for earthquake victims**

People in earthquake-affected areas of Pakistan-administered Kashmir received hospital care in a 100-bed field hospital set up by the ICRC in Muzaffarabad and first aid or other primary care services in four basic health care units (see **Civilians**). The basic health care units evacuated serious cases by road or helicopter to hospitals in Muzaffarabad or elsewhere. The field hospital was provided by the Finnish and Norwegian Red Cross Societies. By the end of February, demand for hospital care was dropping, and the government was better able to cope with remaining cases. The field hospital facility was packed up and given to the Ministry of Health, after staff were trained in how to use it.

**Physical rehabilitation**

Amputees and other disabled people were provided with artificial limbs and other mobility devices through the ICRC's comprehensive referral system for patients from earthquake-affected and isolated conflict-affected areas. The National Society worked with the ICRC to identify patients, particularly in Azad Jammu and Kashmir. The Fauji Foundation in Rawalpindi, the Pakistan Institute for Prosthetic and Orthotic Sciences in Peshawar and the Christian Hospital in Quetta fitted appliances for patients referred to them by the ICRC, which reimbursed them for their services. To improve the quality and sustainability of the services, the centres began to introduce polypropylene technology and provide staff with further training, with support from the ICRC.

An additional 342 disabled Afghan refugees living in Pakistan received orthopaedic appliances over the border at the ICRC physical rehabilitation centre in Jalalabad, with the delegation providing transport.

- 2,701 patients (638 women and 474 children) received services at 3 ICRC-supported physical rehabilitation centres
- 611 new patients (106 women and 43 children) fitted with prostheses and 467 (63 women and 238 children) with orthoses
- 723 prostheses (122 for women and 47 for children; 370 for mine victims), 678 orthoses (86 for women and 375 for children; 32 for mine victims), 685 crutches and 29 wheelchairs delivered

In November, construction began on the new ICRC physical rehabilitation centre in Muzaffarabad.

**AUTHORITIES**

Discussions continued between the authorities and the ICRC on IHL implementation.

The authorities showed interest in incorporating IHL into national legislation after the Research Society of International Law presented an ICRC-sponsored study on the subject at the Federal Judicial Academy in Islamabad. Representatives of the government also attended other ICRC-sponsored IHL events, including workshops and presentations.

At the invitation of the Chief Justice of Pakistan, the ICRC gave a presentation at the Golden Jubilee of the Supreme Court of Pakistan on the implementation and application of IHL in Pakistan, noting where legislation was currently lacking and where progress had been made.

Military personnel, civil servants, lawyers and politicians took part in one of four certificate courses on IHL for working professionals, sponsored by the ICRC.

**PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM**

Since 2002, detainees repatriated from Afghanistan and Guantanamo Bay had been visited by the ICRC while in Pakistani detention facilities pending their release. By 2006, most had been released, and the ICRC conducted follow-up visits to them at home and assisted those who needed help in getting medical care or returning to work. During the year, home follow-up was extended to persons released from Indian detention facilities.

- 49 detainees visited, 12 of them monitored individually during 9 visits to 4 places of detention
- 14 RCMs collected from and 13 distributed to detainees
- 81 families notified of a relative's detention
- 79 release checks of ex-detainees repatriated from Afghanistan, Guantanamo Bay and India performed

Discussions continued with the relevant authorities with a view to starting visits to all detainees falling within the ICRC's mandate.

**WOUNDED AND SICK**

Care for people wounded in conflict

While the ICRC had no access to areas of North and South Waziristan affected by fighting, it maintained its support to hospitals treating the weapon-wounded who had been transferred out of those areas, and covered the costs of their surgical and medical treatment. Six referral hospitals in Miranshah, Bannu, Tank, Peshawar and Quetta received medicines and medical materials.
ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

The army continued to develop its IHL training, including it in the curricula of two key establishments: the Command and Staff College and the Pakistan Military Academy. By providing materials and instructor training, the ICRC also supported the army in introducing IHL courses in the basic infantry training establishments, schools for non-commissioned officers and five branch schools. Additional instructor courses and IHL workshops were organized in different training institutions. Members of the air force and navy attended IHL dissemination sessions.

Dialogue with the Frontier Corps, paramilitary troops policing western frontier regions (Baluchistan and NWFP), also improved. In particular, the NWFP Frontier Corps began to work with the ICRC to incorporate IHL into its training.

CIVIL SOCIETY

The media focused on the ICRC’s earthquake-related activities. Their work was supported by ICRC public communication tools and scheduled press briefings. In conjunction with the National Society and the International Federation, the ICRC also sponsored an award for journalists. The ICRC prepared media materials to mark the one-year anniversary of the earthquake.

Members of the media attended four workshops on reporting on conflicts and disasters held in Islamabad, Karachi, Lahore and Muzaffarabad. A Pakistani journalist participated in a media workshop held in Bali, Indonesia, on “terrorism”, international law and the media. Later in the year, members of the media attended a ceremony to mark the start of construction on the ICRC physical rehabilitation centre in Muzaffarabad.

Regular contact was maintained with influential religious leaders across the country. Selected lecturers from the Higher Education Commission were trained in IHL by the ICRC, and the International Islamic University began planning the introduction of IHL in its curricula for religious scholars.

- a one-day seminar on IHL organized by the Department of International Relations of Peshawar University and the ICRC

- additional universities/colleges in Lahore, Karachi and Islamabad contacted by the ICRC to promote the introduction of IHL as a credit course within their curricula

- a 3-member team selected from 15 law institutions to participate in the Jean Pictet international IHL moot court competition in Belgrade, Serbia (see Belgrade)

- 3 Pakistani lecturers attended the 8th South Asian Teaching Session on IHL and Refugee Law in Bangalore, India, an event sponsored by the ICRC and UNHCR (see New Delhi)

- 2 professors of international law sponsored by the ICRC to go to the Asian Academic Symposium on IHL in Malaysia (see Kuala Lumpur)

- a law professor from Quetta represented Pakistan in the IHL training course for university professors held in Geneva, Switzerland

RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT

The Pakistan Red Crescent Society was heavily involved in the response to the earthquake, both independently and in cooperation with the ICRC and other Movement partners.

In Pakistan-administered Kashmir, the ICRC worked closely with the local branch, which was supported by staff and volunteers from the Punjab branch. Many family-links activities and over half of the ICRC’s relief distributions were conducted with the National Society.

The National Society, the International Federation, various partner National Societies working in Pakistan and the ICRC coordinated activities, exchanged information and in some cases conducted activities jointly. The ICRC undertook a livestock programme with the support and expertise of the German Red Cross. It also coordinated its activities with those of the Qatari and Turkish Red Crescent Societies, both of which were running hospitals, health facilities and shelter programmes in the earthquake-affected area.

In addition to cooperation in emergency response, the ICRC continued providing support to and working closely with the National Society in the fields of first aid, restoring family links and IHL dissemination.
In 2006, the ICRC:
- monitored the situation of civilians in conflict-affected areas and, where necessary, made oral and written representations to the relevant authorities; increased knowledge of and respect for IHL and Movement activities among various weapon bearers, including government troops and armed opposition and insurgent groups;
- provided food to 52,255 civilians and essential household items to 40,313 civilians in conflict-affected areas and carried out water and sanitation projects for IDPs, in cooperation with the Philippine National Red Cross;
- visited 60,734 detainees, following up 457 individually and, with the National Society, enabling 249 to receive visits from family members; distributed hygiene items and other supplies and made urgent small-scale improvements to prison infrastructure;
- supported the surgical and medical treatment of 155 civilians wounded in armed clashes and bomb attacks;
- co-organized with the National Society a national symposium on the management of human remains following the deadly mudslide in southern Leyte in February; organized 2 war-surgery seminars in Manila and Zamboanga for 138 participants and another one on burn management for civilian and military surgeons and other medical professionals active in conflict-affected areas.

The Philippines faced more political turmoil in 2006. The Executive alleged there had been a coup plot by military officers who were arrested and placed under house arrest or in disciplinary detention while awaiting military judicial follow-up. In June, the government announced an increase in military spending.

The civilian population living in conflict-prone areas was affected by frequent armed clashes between government forces and armed opposition groups. The most violent clashes occurred in June in Maguindanao, displacing some 25,000 civilians. Targeted killings of opposition party leaders, journalists and human rights activists persisted, as did conflict-related incidents, albeit of low intensity. The government stepped up its counter-insurgency campaign throughout the country.

In November, the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) announced that it would resume peace talks in Kuala Lumpur with the government, but without specifying a date. In parallel, discussions were held between the government and the Organization of the Islamic Conference to assess implementation of the 1996 final peace agreement between the government and the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF), which was still igniting serious controversy 10 years after being signed.

In the Philippines, where the ICRC has been working since 1982, the delegation assists and protects civilians displaced or otherwise affected by armed clashes between the government and insurgent groups, primarily on the southern island of Mindanao. It acts as a neutral intermediary between opposing forces in humanitarian matters, visits security detainees and works with the Philippine National Red Cross, through its network of regional chapters and local branches, to assist displaced people and promote compliance with IHL.
The ICRC’s main focus was to address the impact of insurgency and counter-insurgency operations on the civilian population. It expanded and consolidated its presence in conflict-affected areas in order to monitor the situation, assisted victims when necessary and made representations to the authorities and weapon bearers concerned regarding alleged violations of IHL. The ICRC also provided people affected by the violence with food and essential household items, in cooperation with the National Society. The ICRC worked to ensure access to safe water and proper sanitation facilities for the displaced. It covered the medical costs of people wounded in conflict-related incidents, provided supplies to hospitals treating such cases, and mobilized external resources and stakeholders.

ICRC delegates continued visits to people held in connection with insurgency and to military officials held in connection with attempted insurrections. They assessed detainees’ treatment and conditions of detention, paying special attention to the needs of women, minors, the elderly and the sick. Small ad hoc improvements were made to prison infrastructure, such as increasing ventilation and installing bunk beds, to alleviate the severe overcrowding, and hygiene and recreational items were distributed in 57 jails. It also assisted the prison administration in mobilizing government support for further improvements.

The ICRC pursued efforts to promote knowledge of and respect for IHL among the armed forces, police and various armed groups. Given the pervasiveness of violence in the Philippines, the ICRC concentrated on dissemination at field level. Field contacts with other humanitarian organizations and local NGOs were expanded to enhance coordination in responding to the needs of conflict victims. Dissemination sessions were also held for representatives of these organizations to explain the ICRC’s role and mandate.

Sessions on IHL were conducted for local authorities, as well as for college and university students. Law students and lecturers from various higher-education establishments participated in regional IHL events. The ICRC participated in national forums on the legal aspects of recruitment of child soldiers and initiated bilateral discussions with relevant authorities to support the implementation of the rules and regulations of the Juvenile Justice and Welfare Act, which entered into force in May 2006.

The Philippine National Red Cross continued to be an essential partner for the ICRC in its operations. Likewise, the ICRC supported the National Society’s efforts to assist the victims of the deadly landslide in southern Leyte in February and of the typhoons in the central islands in December, in particular in the fields of tracing and water supply. In addition, the ICRC continued to assist the National Society’s capacity-building efforts. It supported training in dissemination and water and sanitation activities, and co-organized with the National Society a national symposium on the proper handling, both technically and culturally, of large numbers of human remains following major disasters.

The ICRC consolidated its presence in Luzon, Mindanao and Visayas, with a particular focus on Sulu. Regular contact was established and maintained with the military, insurgent groups, local government authorities, residents, the Church and other influential members of civil society in order to receive timely reports on the evolving humanitarian situation. Whenever possible, and on a case-by-case basis, the ICRC’s concerns regarding the increased regularity of armed incidents were communicated to weapon bearers and civilian authorities, as were their obligations under IHL.

Assisting the displaced and residents
Integrated protection and economic-security missions enabled the ICRC to monitor closely the needs of IDPs and of the civilian population affected by violence throughout the country. Civilians in Luzon, Mindanao and Visayas with no or limited access to their means of livelihood received some or all of the following: rice, sardines, noodles, salt, sugar, coffee, tarpaulins, kitchen utensils, mats, blankets, jerry cans and soap. The relief operations were carried out in cooperation with the respective local Red Cross chapter.

- 52,255 civilians affected by armed violence received food and
- 40,313 received essential household items during 34 distributions
- 2,350 people in 5 evacuation centres assessed by the ICRC in Maguindanao and Sulu provinces benefited from improvements to their water supply and sanitation conditions such as the construction of latrines, drilling of new wells and installation of water pumps; 2,800 people in 4 additional centres were benefiting from ongoing projects
PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

ICRC delegates continued to visit detainees held in facilities under the responsibility of the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP), the provincial authorities and the Bureau of Corrections. Following the declaration of the state of emergency, visits were organized to several military and police camps inside and outside Manila during the year. Confidential reports were submitted to the authorities following the visits. Particularly vulnerable detainees, such as minors, women, the elderly and the sick, were closely monitored by the ICRC. The prison authorities used ICRC recommendations to implement improvements. Detainees received visits from their relatives as part of a joint ICRC/National Society programme that had been running since 1982. More than half of the 93 Red Cross chapters were involved in arranging family visits.

- 60,734 detainees visited, 457 (31 females, 8 minors) of them monitored individually, including 137 (19 females, 7 minors) newly registered, during 227 visits to 125 places of detention
- 249 detainees visited by family members

Several surveys of the causes of judicial delays and the consequences of prison overcrowding were undertaken. The BJMP welcomed the ICRC’s proposal to produce a synthesis report to help in mobilizing support for prison reform.

Improving living conditions

Detainees benefited from ICRC-supported water and habitat projects carried out in collaboration with the BJMP and the Bureau of Corrections to improve living conditions in prisons. The health of detainees in 23 jails in Luzon and Visayas and 35 jails in Mindanao was monitored by the ICRC, and the authorities alerted to any problems. The ICRC repeatedly stressed the importance of a balanced diet and preventive health care for detainees. Prisons where detainees displayed symptoms of beriberi were given a supply of thiamine.

- 16,637 inmates benefited from completed (12,594 inmates in 11 jails) and ongoing (4,043 inmates in 11 other jails) habitat projects
- 18,117 detainees received hygiene and/or cleaning materials, games, books, recreational items, medical supplies and/or kitchen utensils
- 413 inmates received medical assistance in the form of medicines, crutches or payment of laboratory fees
- infirmaries in 3 Metro Manila jails and 8 jails in Mindanao received assistance in the form of medical supplies and equipment, such as masks, gloves, disinfectant, weighing scales and nebulizers

WOUNDED AND SICK

The ICRC continued to assess the needs and support the medical treatment of victims of armed clashes and other violent incidents.

In order to boost the limited capacity of health facilities in violence-prone regions to treat the wounded, medical supplies were placed in stock in 15 Mindanao chapters. Some medical equipment was also donated to a tertiary hospital and a Red Cross chapter.

Two bombing incidents in Sulu early in the year, killing 10 people and injuring more than 50, strained the resources of the health facilities in the area. To increase their capacity to cope with mass casualty incidents of this kind, health professionals attended seminars organized by the ICRC. In coordination with hospital authorities in the area, initial steps were also taken to set up another burn unit to cater to victims from western Mindanao.

- a total of 61 medical doctors of various specializations and 77 nurses and army health professionals attended 2 war-surgery seminars in Manila and Zamboanga
- 30 medical doctors, nurses and Red Cross volunteers providing a front-line response during the bombings attended a burn management seminar
- 157 patients (including 155 weapon-wounded) given surgical and medical care with ICRC support, 20 of whom required multiple surgical operations
- 47 wounded people provided with blood from National Society blood banks
- 97 IDPs given medical treatment
- 20 amputees (1 woman) who had lost limbs as result of the conflict or landmines provided with prostheses
- 23 crutches and 1 wheelchair delivered

AUTHORITIES

The technical working group established by the House Justice Committee to review a bill penalizing violations of IHL received support and advice from the ICRC. Close cooperation was maintained with the national IHL committee chaired by the Philippine National Red Cross.

The government signed Additional Protocol III, and the instrument of ratification for the Hague Convention on Cultural Property and its First Protocol, which had been signed by the Executive, was transmitted to the Senate for approval.

In order to raise awareness of IHL-related issues and its concerns, the ICRC participated in the first regional conference on building networks to strengthen human rights cooperation among member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, held in Manila in April and organized by the Philippine Commission on Human Rights. It also participated in the international counter-“terrorism” experts’ conference in Cebu City.

ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

Dialogue with the armed forces and insurgent groups regarding their obligations under IHL continued. Dissemination sessions on IHL and the Fundamental Principles were organized for the armed forces and police units, as well as for members of the MILF and MNLF.

Owing to the increasingly tense environment, the programme of field dissemination for army battalions in central and southern Luzon was resumed to complement ongoing National Society efforts. Dialogue on humanitarian issues was reinforced with regional military commands, officers responsible for civil-military operations and junior field commanders.

The armed forces received technical support in carrying out a full review of IHL instruction, with a view to standardizing and improving customized training methods and materials at all levels.

- 3,770 members of the armed forces, including senior officers, attended IHL workshops
- 2 air force officers participated in an ICRC-organized IHL workshop abroad
- 64 military observers, about to be deployed with UN peacekeeping forces, attended IHL presentations
- 10 officers from the international monitoring team supervising the ceasefire agreement between the government and MILF briefed on the role of the ICRC
- 25 police instructors at headquarters attended train-the-trainer courses
650 police officers attended field or headquarters dissemination sessions

Regular contact was maintained with MILF and MNLF representatives. Contacts were further developed with persons close to the NPA, who indicated a greater willingness to relay to the NPA the ICRC’s interest in pursuing dialogue on humanitarian issues.

954 MNLF and 81 MILF members and 31 young people and 37 female members selected by the MILF Central Committee attended field presentations on IHL and the Movement

CIVIL SOCIETY

Extensive communication in the field continued, aimed at raising awareness of the ICRC’s mandate and activities and the basic protection afforded to people under IHL.

- 4,000 representatives of local communities, 2,000 representatives of provincial and local government and NGOs, 3,342 village leaders and 400 students attended dissemination sessions
- 2 senior Filipino journalists invited to speak at an IHL event organized for the Asian Media Summit (see Kuala Lumpur)
- a study to assess the level of integration of IHL in law curricula launched, and the inaugural edition of the Asia-Pacific Yearbook of International Humanitarian Law published by the Institute of International Legal Studies of the University of the Philippines Law Centre, with ICRC support
- law students and lecturers sponsored to attend national and international IHL events and competitions
- copies of the ICRC’s study on customary international humanitarian law distributed to higher-education establishments
- students, including local government executives and administrators, taking part in the Masters in Public Management programme of the Development Academy of the Philippines attended ICRC lectures

RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT

Cooperation with the Philippine National Red Cross helped the ICRC to enhance its proximity to victims of violence (see Civilians). The ICRC supported National Society initiatives to raise public awareness of IHL and the Movement.

The National Society received ICRC support in assisting the victims of the landslide in southern Leyte and the typhoons in Albay and Mindoro. Immediately after the events, the ICRC deployed a team to assist the National Society in coordinating with the International Federation and to support forensic teams. National Society representatives, government officials and humanitarian organizations attended an ICRC-organized national symposium aimed at boosting capacities in tracing and identification of disaster victims.

Staff of Red Cross chapters in Luzon and Mindanao attended training sessions in the use of emergency equipment so as to be able to respond to conflict-related displacements. The training focused on assessment of the water situation during emergencies and in temporary evacuation centres. This preparation facilitated the deployment of ICRC water equipment following typhoon-related destruction and displacement in southern Luzon. The National Society distributed 4,000 tarpaulins provided by the ICRC to victims of Typhoon Durian.

The family-visits programme, implemented jointly with the Philippine National Red Cross, continued to help family members maintain contact with their detained relatives (see People deprived of their freedom). The National Society also helped restore family links for the estimated 30,000 Filipino workers in Lebanon during the conflict there, with support from the ICRC. It also participated in the regional family-links conference in December (see Bangkok).

Some 100 volunteer IHL disseminators attended five refresher courses organized by the National Society, with ICRC support.
In 2006, the ICRC:

- made several high-level representations regarding alleged IHL violations to the parties concerned, addressed the needs of conflict victims by following up incidents with the parties concerned and by assisting the victims, wherever possible;
- increased its field presence in regions affected by the upsurge in violence;
- transferred 164 civilians from Jaffna to Colombo and 165 sets of human remains across front lines;
- visited some 22,000 detainees, following up 1,266 individually, in 135 places of detention;
- in the north and east, provided some 80,000 conflict-affected IDPs with food and some 130,000 with essential household items;
- provided water and sanitation facilities to some 100,000 people, of whom some 20,000 were IDPs living in camps;
- supplied the health authorities and 15 hospitals with emergency medical supplies; facilitated the medical evacuation of 181 wounded or sick people; transported 98 patients by plane from Jaffna Teaching Hospital to Colombo for specialized treatment;
- facilitated the safe passage of nearly 3.7 million civilians and over 125,000 vehicles through crossing points between government-controlled areas and areas controlled by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam.

CONTEXT

After the presidential election in November 2005, there was an upsurge in violence in the north and east. A lull followed the announcement by Norwegian facilitators that the government and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) would meet in Geneva, Switzerland, in February to discuss implementation of the 2002 ceasefire agreement. The talks, however, made little headway. The main point of contention was the Karuna faction, a group that had split from the LTTE about two years earlier and since then had gained growing influence in the east. The LTTE blamed the group for recent extrajudicial killings in that part of the country and accused the government of supporting the group. The government, meanwhile, characterized the rift between the two groups as an internal problem among Tamils.

The second half of the year saw a serious deterioration in the security situation and the steady erosion of the ceasefire agreement, which remained nominally in place. In August, fighting broke out in Muhamalai between the Jaffna peninsula and the Vanni. As a result, access to the peninsula was blocked and the area became isolated from the rest of the island. Clashes that broke out in July in the Sampoor area of the Trincomalee district spread southwards and became concentrated around the Vakarai area in the district of Batticaloa. Military confrontations intensified in Batticaloa and Ampara.

The international community condemned the resurgence of violence. In April, the Canadian government declared the LTTE a terrorist organization, with the European Union (EU) following suit in May. The four co-chairs of the peace negotiations (the United States, the EU, Japan and Norway) issued a sharp warning to both parties, threatening to pull out of the talks and freeze all assistance other than humanitarian aid unless serious efforts were made to revive the peace process. The move would have jeopardized post-tsunami reconstruction, already delayed by security problems and other factors.

There was an increase in claymore mine attacks, suicide bombings and aerial bombardments. The LTTE closed the Mavil Aru sluice gates south of Trincomalee, resulting in retaliatory action by government forces in the Sampoor area. The LTTE attempted to take Mutur but was pushed back by government forces. As a result of the fighting there, some 50,000 people were displaced. At the end of the year, some 10–15,000 people were still unable to return to their homes. Violence also resurfaced in Colombo and other areas in the south of the island in the form of suicide attacks and bus bombings. Overall, some 200,000 people were displaced during the year.

The ICRC has worked in Sri Lanka since 1989. Operations focus on: protecting civilians from violations of IHL, including the recruitment of minors; ensuring the safe passage of civilians across ceasefire lines; visiting detainees; improving primary health care, water supply and economic security in conflict-affected communities; supporting military training in IHL; and helping the parties resolve the issue of missing persons. In the north and east, the ICRC also coordinates the Red Cross and Red Crescent response to the tsunami.
People deprived of their freedom

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Detainees visited</td>
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<tr>
<td>Detainees visited and monitored individually</td>
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<tr>
<td>Number of visits carried out</td>
<td>526</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of places of detention visited</td>
<td>135</td>
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Restoring family links

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Red Cross messages (RCMs) and reunifications</td>
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<td>RCMs collected</td>
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<tr>
<td>RCMs distributed</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tracing requests, including cases of missing persons</td>
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<tr>
<td>People for whom a tracing request was newly registered</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tracing requests closed positively (persons located)</td>
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Documents issued

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Civilians and people deprived of their freedom

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<th>Category</th>
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<tr>
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<td>Essential household items</td>
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<td>Habitat structures</td>
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<td>Wounded and sick</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Hospital supported</td>
<td>Structures</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

ICRC Action

The increase in violence during the second half of the year created new humanitarian needs, prompting the ICRC to issue two budget extension appeals. However, frequent hartals (regional general strikes), new security constraints and other problems hindered the movements of the ICRC and the National Society and slowed the implementation of planned activities. Access to conflict victims was often hampered by ongoing military operations, and the procurement of essential supplies was occasionally blocked. The security of ICRC and National Society staff was also a serious concern. Twenty-five workers from various humanitarian organizations were killed in Sri Lanka in 2006.

In response to the growing number of alleged IHL violations, the ICRC increased its field presence. As the violence escalated, more people sought ICRC help in finding relatives who had either disappeared or allegedly been arrested. The ICRC helped locate some of the people sought by, for example, submitting requests for information on cases to both sides.

The ICRC visited some 22,000 detainees in 135 places of detention and followed up 1,266 individually. It stepped up its visits to people held in police stations. Visits to detainees held by the government proceeded as in past years. Delegates visited some people held by the LTTE but did not have access to security detainees.

Health activities had to be reoriented because of the rise in hostilities. The ICRC shifted its focus from community-based health programmes to activities responding to the emergency needs of displaced and resident populations. Support in the form of medical supplies was increased to hospitals in the north and east, and more emphasis was placed on hygiene promotion and disease prevention in IDP camps. As the security situation deteriorated further, greater numbers of medical evacuations of the wounded and sick were carried out.

During the first half of the year, the ICRC provided drinking water to tens of thousands of people. Later, when fighting displaced thousands of people, efforts were redirected to providing water, sanitation and shelter to IDPs throughout the north and east. The ICRC provided approximately 40,000 families with essential household items, hygiene kits, baby parcels, fishing kits and boats, focusing on boosting agricultural production and promoting alternative income-generating activities. This type of economic assistance was aimed at conflict-affected inland populations who had been overlooked by other humanitarian actors in the provision of post-tsunami aid to coastal communities.

The ICRC was lead agency for the Movement on security-related issues.

Civilians

Threats to civilian security

The escalation of violence in the north and east was reflected in an increase in the number of IHL violations reported to the ICRC, and more people came to the ICRC seeking help to find family members who had disappeared or allegedly been arrested. ICRC offices received 10,000 visitors, most of them in the north and east. The ICRC discussed cases directly with the government security forces or LTTE, requesting information on them to transmit to the families or proposing measures to prevent the recurrence of such incidents. It pressed for the demobilization of recruited minors and followed up on those who were captured, detained and then released by the government but were unable to return to their villages for fear of reprisal. In such instances, it helped them keep in touch with their families until they were able to go home. The ICRC facilitated the safe passage of 3,699,226 people and 126,445 vehicles between government- and LTTE-controlled areas.

Improving access to safe water and shelter

Already fragile water resources in the north and east had been depleted by years of conflict, the tsunami and, more recently, the upsurge in violence. Efforts earlier in the year to enhance public hygiene awareness and improve the hand pump maintenance system were hampered by the deteriorating security situation. Salinity monitoring of 250 tsunami-affected wells was also suspended owing to access and security problems. In the second half of the year, the ICRC shifted its focus to assisting IDPs in Ampara, Anuradhapura, Batticaloa, Jaffna, Kilinochchi, Mullaitivu, Trincomalee and Vavuniya districts. It provided shelter in five camps (family tents and semi-permanent structures), as well as water and sanitation facilities, such as emergency toilets, washing areas, bathing cubicles and rubbish bins, in Anuradhapura and Batticaloa. During the emergency phase, some 2,000 IDPs received drinking water brought in by tankers. Later in the year and wherever feasible, the provision of drinking water by tankers was replaced by more permanent,
low-cost and sustainable solutions, such as rehabilitated and cleaned water points, including tube wells and shallow wells.

In order to increase conflict victims’ access to a safe water supply and decrease the likelihood of disease outbreaks, the following activities were carried out:

- 178,529 people benefited from completed (99,379 people) and ongoing (79,150 people) water and sanitation projects;
- 7,400 people benefited from completed (2,000 people) and ongoing (5,400 people) shelter and habitat projects.

**Enhancing economic security**

People displaced by the conflict were provided with food by the ICRC, and as an emergency measure, families on the Jaffna peninsula were given milk formula for children under five.

The ICRC aimed to bolster the livelihoods of vulnerable conflict-affected families. However, some 42% of the beneficiaries of its economic security programmes were also affected by the tsunami. The massive influx of tsunami-related aid in coastal areas caused an imbalance which the ICRC tried to redress by concentrating on inland areas that had still not recovered from the effects of the conflict and had been further impoverished by the collapse of trade with devastated coastal areas. Implemented with the National Society at district and branch level, the activities included the distribution of fishing kits, essential household items, vegetable seeds and fruit tree saplings in order to improve beneficiaries’ diet. The ICRC also financed cash-for-work programmes.

- 80,580 people (20,148 households) received food
- 129,845 people (33,374 households) received essential household items including tents, blankets, tarpaulins, kitchen sets and hygiene kits; 126,583 (31,711 households) of them were IDPs
- 37,576 people (8,972 households) benefited from agricultural and micro-economic initiatives

**Improving health care in IDP camps**

The Canadian, Danish, Norwegian and Swedish Red Cross Societies ran four programmes in the north and east, which involved training community health workers who then went on to work in 19 first-aid posts and support community health committees and public health midwives. With the upsurge in violence in these areas, the programmes were adapted to meet the needs of conflict victims, including IDPs living in camps. The community health workers were trained in health promotion, disease prevention and first aid. They also distributed hygiene kits to vulnerable households. The escalation of violence and resulting restrictions on movement and fuel shortages during the year disrupted training sessions and field activities in all health programmes.

In the 19 supported first-aid posts (catchment population: 79,676):

- 43,190 consultations were given (21,068 for women);
- 1,350 health education sessions were held.

**Restoring family links**

Family-links activities resumed, particularly in Jaffna and the Vanni.

- 2,333 RCMs collected from and 1,206 RCMs distributed to civilians, including 2 to unaccompanied/ separated children, with the support of National Society volunteers
- new tracing requests registered for 1,309 people (161 females, 576 minors at the time of disappearance; 470 people located; 7,236 people (403 females, 1,110 minors at the time of disappearance) still being sought, including 5,966 people (224 females, 593 minors at the time of disappearance) reported missing in connection with fighting in the north and east between 1990 and 2002
- 164 civilians transferred from Jaffna to Colombo
- 165 sets of human remains transferred.

Owing to the sharp increase in hostilities, the number of transfers across front lines of remains of fighters killed during armed clashes rose significantly.

**PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM**

**Government-held detainees**

In response to the upsurge in violence and the related increase in arrests, the ICRC stepped up visits to security detainees, to whom it had full access in government facilities. The delegation helped pay the transport costs of over 400 families to visit relatives detained far from home and, when necessary, worked with the National Society to relay RCMs between detainees and their families. It also assessed conditions in government prisons generally and shared its findings on and recommendations for dealing with the problems caused by overcrowding with the authorities.

Many ICRC visits were made to detainees held in police stations under the Emergency Regulations (reintroduced in August 2005), which allowed for extended custody in places of temporary detention without a court appearance. Additional “Emergency Regulations relating to acts of terrorism” were introduced in December. The ICRC also began to visit LTTE fighters who had surrendered to the government.

- 22,409 detainees visited, 1,135 of them monitored individually (55 females, 78 minors), including 956 newly registered (42 females, 72 minors), during 450 visits to 112 places of detention
- 191 RCMs collected from and 62 distributed to detainees
- 405 detainees visited by their relatives with the support of the ICRC
- all prisons, with a total population of 26,000 detainees, received recreational items

**LTTE-held detainees**

The ICRC visited detainees held by the LTTE for ordinary crimes but could not visit all LTTE places of detention and was not granted access to detainees held for security reasons.

- 221 detainees visited, 131 of them monitored individually (5 females, 10 minors), including 108 newly registered (4 females, 9 minors), during 76 visits to 23 places of detention
- 17 RCMs collected from and 15 distributed to detainees
- 9 detainees visited by their relatives with the support of the ICRC

**WOUNDED AND SICK**

Hospitals in Batticaloa, Jaffna, Kantale, Kilinochchi, Trincomalee and Valachchenai received medical and surgical supplies in preparation for potential emergencies. In August, Kantale Hospital was provided with 10 dispensary tents, 80 beds/mattresses and other essentials by the ICRC to enable it to set up a field hospital to treat the sick among the 30,000 IDPs in the area. An ICRC surgical team deployed to Kilinochchi District Hospital in response to the intensity of hostilities in the area was unable
to work since permission from the government was refused. From August, the ICRC was unable to bring medical supplies into the Vanni.

Following the outbreak of hostilities near Mullaitivu in August, cutting off road access to and from the Jaffna peninsula, the transfer of severely ill patients from Jaffna Teaching Hospital to Colombo became difficult. Owing to security constraints linked to other forms of transport, the ICRC began transferring patients by plane in October. In all, 98 patients were transferred to Colombo and 28 discharged patients flown back to Jaffna. In addition, the plane carried medical supplies.

- 181 wounded or sick people evacuated from Vakarai in Batticaloa district
- a total of 150 doctors and surgeons attended war-surgery workshops in Batticaloa, Jaffna and Kilinochchi
- 2 presentations given by the ICRC's chief surgeon at the International Conference on Military Medicine and Disaster Management in Colombo
- 3 hospitals (145 beds) in Kantale, Muttur and Vakarai benefited from rehabilitation work

**AUTHORITIES**

In February 2006, the Sri Lankan parliament adopted the Geneva Conventions Act. This followed five years of efforts by the ICRC and paved the way for domestic courts to prosecute war crimes.

**ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS**

The Sri Lankan army continued to run an IHL teaching and training programme developed with ICRC technical assistance. The ICRC supported the army, the navy, the air force and the Special Task Force (STF) of the military police in the planning of IHL training activities for 2006 and trained some navy IHL instructors. During 2006, the ICRC conducted some 50 dissemination sessions and training courses on IHL and the ICRC. However, owing to the intensification of hostilities in the second half of the year, several training courses had to be cancelled.

- 3 senior army officers participated in IHL courses in San Remo
- 2 air force officers participated in an ICRC training session on IHL in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- 51 new STF officer recruits attended a three-day training course on the ICRC, IHL and international human rights; 40 STF officers attended a similar three-day course in Ampara; in the eastern region, 4 additional dissemination sessions held for the STF in Ampara and Karaitivu
- 20 LTTE cadres attended a dissemination session in Trincomalee district; 17 LTTE police officers and 4 members of the judiciary participated in an IHL seminar in Batticaloa district
- 30 cadres from the Karuna faction in Ampara and Trincomalee districts attended the first ever dissemination sessions on IHL and the ICRC for members of this group
- 15 senior editors from newspapers and the electronic media discussed issues of humanitarian concern with the ICRC
- 40 journalists from Jaffna and Kilinochchi attended sessions on the importance of the Geneva Conventions Act
- 30 journalists from Ampara, Batticaloa, Trincomalee and Vavuniya attended ICRC dissemination sessions
- 4 legal specialists sponsored to attend the 8th South Asia Teaching Session on IHL and Refugee Law (see New Delhi), and law lecturers from the University of Colombo participated in the Asian Academic Symposium on contemporary IHL issues (see Kuala Lumpur)
- 8 law libraries in Colombo received IHL documentation and materials following the passing of the Geneva Conventions Act, improving information on IHL available to judicial experts

**RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT**

In spite of substantial risks to the security of its staff posed by the increase in violence in the north and east, the Sri Lanka Red Cross Society remained active in all areas of the island and was one of the most important humanitarian organizations in the country. It had expanded to meet the new needs generated by the tsunami and continued to work with many other National Societies implementing recovery programmes. Island-wide capacity-building efforts carried out by the ICRC in cooperation with the International Federation focused on assistance to conflict victims, restoring family links and dissemination.

At district level, the ICRC and the National Society worked together on projects covering community health, emergency relief, first aid and the transfer of human remains, with the National Society implementing these activities with ICRC funding, staff training and technical support. With ICRC financial support, Red Cross branches in Jaffna and Vavuniya established night-time ambulance services to ensure safe access to emergency medical treatment at night.

The National Society worked on strengthening its tracing programme, and received financial and technical support from the ICRC to carry out the programme at headquarters and branch level. A National Society representative participated in the regional family-links conference in Thailand (see Bangkok).

With the Geneva Conventions Act passed by parliament, the National Society and the ICRC drew up a detailed plan for an emblem campaign.

The National Society, with ICRC financial assistance, organized activities to mark World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day (8 May) in all 25 districts of the country. The main event in Kurunegala saw the enrolment of 1,000 youth volunteers for the branch.

Movement partners implementing tsunami-recovery projects in the north and east enhanced their security, communications, and contacts with the authorities with help from ICRC sub-delegations.
Since first establishing a presence in Bangkok in 1979 to support its operation in Cambodia, the ICRC has worked to promote the ratification and implementation of humanitarian treaties and the integration of IHL into military training in all the countries covered. It strives to raise awareness of issues of humanitarian concern among all sectors of society and supports the National Societies of the region in developing their dissemination and tracing activities. The ICRC continues to visit detainees of concern in Cambodia and Thailand and to work towards protecting and assisting vulnerable population groups. The ICRC prosthetic/orthotic project in Cambodia contributes to meeting the need for affordable, good-quality prostheses.

**CONTEXT**

After months of political turmoil, the Royal Thai Army staged a coup on 20 September, deposing Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra and his government. After a short period of martial law, a new government under the premiership of former army commander Surayud Chulanont was installed. The conflict in Myanmar continued to provoke a spillover effect in border areas of Thailand, where an increased number of Myanmarese sought refuge.

In Cambodia, the political, social and economic situation remained strained.

 Violent incidents continued to occur almost daily in the southern region. According to media reports, more than 200 people died and more than 300 were injured in 2006, the majority of them civilians. In response, the government twice extended the disputed emergency decree in southern Thailand. In addition, a series of bombs exploded in Bangkok on 31 December.

**KEY POINTS**

In 2006, the ICRC:
- continued to visit detainees in Thai prisons and began visiting 3 military camps run by the Royal Thai Army; continued to visit detainees in Cambodia and successfully intervened at ministerial level to increase their food allowance by 50%;
- improved water and sanitation conditions for displaced minority populations in the Lao People’s Democratic Republic and provided them with essential household items;
- provided financial assistance for the treatment of 53 war-wounded patients along the Thai-Myanmar border;
- remained a major provider of physical rehabilitation services in the region;
- organized, jointly with the Vietnamese Ministry of Foreign Affairs, a regional IHL seminar in Hanoi with the participation of 12 countries;
- organized in Bangkok, with the Thai Red Cross Society, one of four family-links conferences taking place around the world.

**EXPENDITURE (IN KCHF)**

- Protection: 1,884
- Assistance: 2,278
- Prevention: 1,342
- Cooperation with National Societies: 799
- General: -
- Total: 6,303
  - of which: Overheads: 385

**IMPLEMENTATION RATE**

Expenditure/yearly budget: 81%

**PERSONNEL**

- 17 expatriates
- 54 national staff (daily workers not included)
ICRC ACTION

In Cambodia, the ICRC continued to visit security detainees to monitor their treatment and conditions of detention and to report confidentially to the authorities on its findings. The authorities increased the daily food allowance of detainees by 50% based on the ICRC’s recommendation. Nevertheless, limited resources meant that water and sanitation problems persisted and needed to be addressed urgently. In response, the ICRC provided detainees with hygiene items and installed water filters and storage tanks to improve access to drinking water.

The ICRC continued to visit detainees in Thailand to monitor their treatment and conditions of detention and to report confidentially to the authorities on its findings. A first meeting took place with the commander of the Royal Thai Army, as a result of which the ICRC was able to conduct its first visit to military holding centres and register a number of people attending educational programmes. Several contacts took place with the police headquarters to discuss the possibility of gaining access to people in their custody in southern Thailand. Field missions to the violence-prone southern provinces of Thailand were increased in order to gain a better understanding of the situation there and to reinforce contacts with the population, local authorities and religious leaders.

The ICRC also pursued its protection activities for the civilian population, monitoring the treatment and improving the living conditions of identified minority groups, in cooperation with the respective National Society, in particular in the Lao People’s Democratic Republic and southern Thailand. On the Thai-Myanmar border, it continued to monitor the treatment of weapon-wounded patients from Myanmar admitted to Thai hospitals, and participated in coordination meetings with other humanitarian organizations working along the Thai-Myanmar border.

The ICRC continued to be a major player in the provision of physical rehabilitation services in Cambodia, supporting two centres and a component factory. Support was maintained to the various training programmes run by the region’s armed forces. Promotion of IHL among members of the media, NGOs and academic circles also continued. The ICRC pursued programmes to strengthen the capacities of the National Societies, particularly in the areas of dissemination and restoring family links.

CIVILIANS

In southern Thailand, the ICRC further developed its network of contacts with leaders, opinion-makers and educational and religious authorities and kept them abreast of the organization’s protection mandate and activities. It carried out numerous field trips to southern Thailand with a view to gaining a better understanding of the situation of those affected by the ongoing violence.

Restoring family links
Civilians in the region were able to restore and maintain contact with their relatives through the ICRC’s RCM and tracing services. After the suspension of detention-related activities in Myanmar, the number of RCMs relayed between refugees in Thailand and their families in Myanmar dropped. The exchange of RCMs between Khmer family members separated as a result of past conflict in Cambodia continued in cooperation with the Cambodian Red Cross Society.

Individuals of various nationalities were issued with travel documents, enabling them to leave their host countries legally.

61 RCMs collected from and 60 RCMs distributed to civilians in Thailand
44 people issued with an ICRC travel document
5 refugee committees briefed on the ICRC’s mandate and its activities in Myanmar and Thailand

Protecting and assisting vulnerable civilians in the Lao People’s Democratic Republic
The ICRC continued to monitor the conditions of vulnerable minorities in the region. The ICRC and the Lao Red Cross carried out assessment missions to resettlement villages, where vulnerable groups were provided with essential household items and water and sanitation facilities improved. Three newly created villages (550 families) in the Xaysomboun area were visited in order to assess needs.

In the Lao People’s Democratic Republic:
2,995 people benefited from completed (2,445 people) and ongoing (550 people) water and sanitation projects;
709 people received essential household items.
PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

In Thailand, ICRC delegates, including a doctor, visited 10 places of detention run by the Department of Corrections. Following a first meeting with the Commander of the Royal Thai Army, the ICRC was able to visit three military holding centres and register detainees there.

In Cambodia, an increase in the prison population over the previous 18 months had made living conditions difficult in several prisons. Inmates’ access to water was therefore improved through the installation of several water storage tanks, water pumps and more than 450 drinking water filters. Ventilation devices were installed on the roof of the women’s and juvenile wards in one prison to reduce heat and humidity, and some 10,000 inmates in all prisons received essential household and hygiene items. Scabies eradication was undertaken in one prison where a high rate of skin diseases was discovered. Furthermore, following several ICRC representations to the Ministry of Finance, detainees’ food allowance was increased by 50%.

In Thailand, 366 detainees visited and monitored individually (1 female, 4 minors), including 232 newly registered (1 female, 2 minors) during 24 visits to 13 places of detention; 43 RCMs collected from and 48 RCMs distributed to detainees; 30 security detainees, originally from the southernmost provinces, held in prisons throughout the country, visited by their relatives with the support of the ICRC.

In Cambodia, 6,670 detainees visited, 132 of them monitored individually (2 females), including 13 newly registered, during 15 visits to 11 places of detention.

8,756 inmates in Cambodia benefited from completed (7,897 inmates) and ongoing (859 inmates) water and habitat projects.

10,372 inmates in Cambodia received essential household and hygiene items.

WOUNDED AND SICK

As part of its programme to finance the medical treatment in Thai hospitals of weapon-wounded patients from Myanmar, the ICRC continued to cooperate with international and local medical organizations working along the Thai-Myanmar border.

Physical rehabilitation

According to official estimates, there were some 60,000 disabled people in Cambodia, among them 36,000 mine victims. The ICRC continued to support two regional physical rehabilitation centres in Battambang and Kompong Speu and partially fund the manufacture of prosthetic/orthotic components at the national component factory in Phnom Penh.

53 weapon-wounded (including 42 landmine victims) received financial assistance for medical care.

The prosthetic/orthotic team carried out 22 outreach field trips of three to five days each from Battambang and 157 trips of one or half a day each from Kompong Speu to assess the needs of amputees who found it difficult to travel. During the trips, the teams:

- assessed the condition and needs of 6,337 patients;
- repaired 3,033 prostheses and 432 wheelchairs;
- delivered 568 pairs of crutches and 342 wheelchairs;
- arranged appointments at the Battambang or Kompong Speu centres for 927 patients.

There were an estimated 75,000 amputees in Viet Nam. Between 1989 and 1995, the ICRC helped the government set up production of prosthetic/orthotic components at the Ho Chi Minh City rehabilitation centre. The ICRC Special Fund for the Disabled took over that support in 1995, becoming the largest provider of prostheses in Viet Nam.

AUTHORITIES

Governments in the region worked to adopt national measures to implement IHL with the ICRC’s support.

In Cambodia, the authorities continued to prepare a new criminal code, for which the ICRC offered its support and advice on the inclusion of war crimes sanctions. Preparations went ahead for the Khmer Rouge trials, and the translation into Khmer of the Geneva Conventions, a fundamental reference document for the trial, was completed.

In Cambodia, Thailand and Viet Nam, the ICRC supported and took part in a promotional visit by the International Fact-Finding Commission. Representatives of the Commission met officials of the various countries to encourage them to formally acknowledge the competence of the Commission on the basis of Article 90 of Additional Protocol I.

A regional seminar on the implementation of IHL in East Asia was organized by Viet Nam’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the ICRC. This was the first such event in the region and aimed to improve understanding of IHL obligations and enabled the sharing of information on national implementing legislation. The Vietnamese authorities also carried out a study on the compatibility of IHL with national legislation, with the ICRC’s technical advice and support.

ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

The armed forces in the region continued to integrate IHL into their training programmes with ICRC support. In Cambodia, National Society involvement helped boost the IHL training programme carried out autonomously by the training directorate of the Royal Cambodian Armed Forces.

Following the completion in 2005 of a joint plan of action for the promotion of IHL and its integration into the training of the Lao People’s Army, the Ministry of Defence created a pool of IHL instructors. The army continued to translate the ICRC’s standard teaching kit for IHL instructors into the local language.

The army’s Civil Affairs Department and the ICRC developed a new plan of action for the training of the Viet Nam People’s Army which was endorsed by the army’s...
General Political Department. A train-the-trainer course for 24 senior officers took place in Hanoi. The translation of standard IHL documents and training material was completed.

In Thailand, the ICRC discussed protection issues and activities for detainees held in relation to the situation in the south of the country with the Directorate of Intelligence at army headquarters.

The ICRC took part in the joint Thai-US 10-day regional training exercise Cobra Gold, which included simulating peacekeeping and peace-support situations.

The ICRC pursued formal talks with the Royal Thai Police, introducing the force to its police training programmes.

Leaders of Myanmarese armed opposition groups present in Thailand were periodically briefed about ICRC activities and the need to respect IHL.

**CIVIL SOCIETY**

Leaders of Myanmarese humanitarian organizations in exile and international organizations involved in the Myanmar context were briefed on the ICRC’s mandate and activities and the basic rules of IHL.

Field visits to the south of Thailand provided opportunities for the ICRC to establish contacts with the media there. Two journalists were invited to speak at a media seminar held by the ICRC in Malaysia (see Kuala Lumpur). Representatives of the media and NGOs regularly received ICRC press releases and publications. A radio interview with the ICRC focusing on the ICRC’s mandate and activities in the region was broadcast on the Yala Islamic Radio Station in the violence-prone southern region of Thailand in November.

The relevant faculties of Chiang Mai University, Yala Islamic College and Prince of Songkhla University in Thailand and the ICRC discussed the promotion of IHL. Together with the Thai Red Cross Society, the ICRC continued working with the Ministry of Education towards the inclusion of the Exploring Humanitarian Law programme in secondary school curricula.

- 20 journalists participated in a workshop on reporting on humanitarian issues in conflict areas organized by the Thai Journalists Association and the ICRC.
- University students attended IHL seminars.
- 5 academics from Cambodia, the Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Thailand and Viet Nam attended the Asian Academic Symposium on contemporary IHL issues in Malaysia (see Kuala Lumpur).
- In Viet Nam, law lecturers and researchers from universities in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City attended an IHL and human rights teacher-training programme jointly organized by the Vietnamese Institute for Human Rights and the ICRC.
- Representatives of the Thai Ministry of Education and the Thai Red Cross Youth Bureau participated in a regional Exploring Humanitarian Law train-the-trainer event in Malaysia (see Kuala Lumpur).

With the guidance and support of the ICRC, staff and volunteers of the Red Cross of Viet Nam continued to identify disabled people from remote villages and assist them in obtaining adequate treatment in the nearest physical rehabilitation centres.

The ICRC participated in a regional meeting of National Society disaster response committees, held in Cambodia, where it emphasized the importance of also being able to respond to conflict situations. The National Societies agreed to incorporate the Safer Access approach into the committees’ training programmes.

One of four family-links conferences taking place around the world was held in Bangkok, co-hosted by the Thai Red Cross Society and the ICRC. Participants from 46 National Societies from the Middle East and the Asia-Pacific region attended.

The family-links activities of the Cambodian Red Cross and the Red Cross of Viet Nam continued with the ICRC’s technical and financial support.

The Red Cross of Viet Nam assisted the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the ICRC in organizing a regional IHL seminar in Hanoi and a training course for the Vietnamese People’s Army.

- Dissemination sessions held by the Cambodian Red Cross for government officials on preventing misuse of the emblem; some 90 IHL dissemination sessions organized for teachers and students of secondary schools in 20 provincial and 15 district towns.
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- 3 dissemination sessions held by the Lao Red Cross for some 180 district government officials.
In 2006, the ICRC:

- co-organized a regional round-table on customary international humanitarian law in Beijing;
- conducted a surgical seminar in the DPRK and installed a new prosthetic/orthotic repair unit in a physical rehabilitation centre in China’s Yunnan province;
- co-organized a regional IHL moot court competition at Hong Kong University;
- held IHL seminars, pre-deployment briefings and other training events for the region’s armed forces and participated in a multinational military training exercise in Mongolia;
- held an IHL seminar for diplomats from the DPRK Foreign Ministry;
- continued working towards the inclusion of the Exploring Humanitarian Law programme in secondary school curricula in China and Mongolia.

The ICRC opened its Beijing regional delegation in July 2005. As of 1987, it covered the region from Hong Kong and, as of 1996, from Bangkok. The delegation fosters support among governments, experts and National Societies for ICRC activities in the region and worldwide. It continues to promote the ratification and implementation of humanitarian treaties and the integration of IHL into military training. It also promotes IHL among civil society, in particular academic institutions. It supports the National Societies of the region in developing their dissemination and tracking activities. ICRC/National Society prosthetic/orthotic projects in China and in the DPRK contribute to meeting the need for affordable, good-quality prostheses.

**CONTEXT**

East Asia continued to experience peace and speedy development in all areas, which contributed to its growing importance worldwide. China forged closer links with various regional organizations, such as the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), and took an active role in the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation.

Families divided by the past war on the Korean peninsula continued to suffer the consequences of their prolonged separation. The efforts of the parties involved to address the issue had yielded little in the way of results and were hampered by political considerations.
ICRC ACTION

In 2006, the ICRC focused on expanding its network of contacts in the region, particularly in China and the Republic of Korea (ROK). It strove to raise awareness of the ICRC, its mandate and activities and to develop activities in the area of IHL promotion and implementation. The ICRC supported China, the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (DPRK) and Mongolia in taking steps towards creating national IHL committees, and organized a regional seminar on customary international humanitarian law for ministerial representatives, in cooperation with the Chinese International Law Society.

The delegation worked with the region’s armed forces towards the integration of IHL into their training programmes. Several training events were held either by the ICRC or with ICRC support, including seminars and pre-deployment briefings for peacekeepers departing on mission. Delegates took part in a multinational military training exercise in Mongolia.

The ICRC continued to advocate a clear separation between political considerations and humanitarian obligations regarding communications and meetings between separated relatives on the Korean peninsula, and reiterated its readiness to play a role in facilitating such contacts.

In China and the DPRK, the ICRC maintained a key role in the provision of physical rehabilitation services. In cooperation with the respective National Society, it ran two centres in the DPRK and one centre and a repair workshop in China. In 2006, a new ICRC/National Society repair workshop in China, easily accessible for beneficiaries living in areas bordering Vietnam, was installed in an existing centre run by the China Disabled Persons’ Federation. In addition, the ICRC conducted a two-month surgical training course in the DPRK and equipped and supplied the surgical facility at the Rakrang centre.

The ICRC increased its contacts among think-tanks, academic circles and the media. It pursued activities aimed at advancing the integration of IHL into university courses and secondary school curricula and helped in the organization of an inter-university moot court competition at Hong Kong University. The Exploring Humanitarian Law programme progressed in a number of schools in China, and the programme in Mongolia was extended to new schools following a number of teacher-training sessions.

As in past years, the ICRC contributed to strengthening the capacities of the region’s National Societies, particularly in the area of dissemination. It visited a number of branches of the Red Cross Society of China and supported and took part in a regional seminar in the ROK on the promotion and dissemination of IHL by National Societies.

CIVILIANS

In May, the ICRC and the Red Cross Society of China delivered RCMs written by detainees held in the US detention facility at Guantanamo Bay Naval Station in Cuba to their families in China. The messages were the first news that the families had received in more than five years.

More than 100,000 Korean families were separated by the 1950–53 Korean war. Although the inter-Korean dialogue and family meetings, including video link conferences, resumed in 2005 after a year-long break for political reasons, little progress was made in finding lasting solutions to the plight of those affected. The ICRC continued to advocate a clear separation between political considerations and humanitarian obligations regarding communications and meetings between separated relatives, and reiterated its readiness to play a role in facilitating such contacts.

WOUNDED AND SICK

Physical rehabilitation

China

The ICRC-supported physical rehabilitation centre in Kunming, Yunnan province, continued to assist disabled patients. Two National Society staff members began working at the centre after graduating from a three-year course at the Chinese Centre for Orthopaedic Technologists. Bench technicians and physiotherapy assistants were given on-the-job training.

A new repair shop was installed within an existing physical rehabilitation centre in Kaiyuan, Honghe prefecture, run by the China Disabled Persons’ Federation. Two workshop technicians attended a two-month training course, and began their work in the second half of the year, repairing prosthetic appliances for 121 amputees in the area.

In November, the Yunnan Red Cross began to fit amputees living in the prefectures bordering Myanmar. Criteria for assessing the needs of upper-limb amputees were defined to help local Red Cross branches identify patients requiring such services.

1. China and the DPRK
DPRK

The Songrim physical rehabilitation centre continued to benefit from ICRC and National Society support. To maintain and improve the quality of the service, technical staff received on-the-job training, and guidelines regarding patient management procedures were entered under development.

The new Rakrang physical rehabilitation centre, which began operating at the end of 2005 and was officially inaugurated in April 2006, treated an increasing number of patients. Staff were given support by ICRC expatriates, who worked alongside them and helped develop working procedures for the centre.

A surgical annex specializing in stump-revision surgery was established at Rakrang centre, which was also intended to serve as a training establishment for Korean surgeons from various hospitals. To get the centre off to a good start, basic equipment, materials and sufficient consumables for 300 operations were supplied by the ICRC. A first two-month train-the-trainer course, run by an ICRC surgical team, enabled surgeons to perfect their skills.

Songrim

- 689 patients (123 women) received physical rehabilitation services
- 404 new patients (76 women) fitted with prostheses and 10 with orthoses
- 693 prostheses (124 for women, 10 for mine victims), 12 orthoses, 956 crutches and 33 wheelchairs delivered

Rakrang

- 234 patients (28 women, 9 children) received physical rehabilitation services
- 184 new patients (25 women, 5 children) fitted with prostheses and 5 with orthoses
- 211 prostheses (28 for women, 8 for children, 2 for mine victims) and 6 orthoses (1 for a child), 303 crutches and 23 wheelchairs delivered
- 8 bench technicians and 7 physiotherapy assistants given on-the-job training
- 5 students continued their training at the Cambodian School of Prosthetics and Orthotics subsidized by the ICRC

AUTHORITIES

Various meetings and contacts took place with the governments of the region with a view to accelerating accession to relevant IHL treaties and their national implementation. In order to facilitate this process, a study on the compatibility of China’s domestic legislation with its obligations under IHL was initiated, in cooperation with academic partners. In China, the DPRK and Mongolia, governments met ICRC representatives to discuss the creation of national IHL committees, for which the ICRC offered advice and technical support. The DPRK established an interministerial body for the implementation of IHL in December.

Representatives of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Justice and Defence of China, Japan, Myanmar, the ROK, Mongolia and Vietnam were informed of the conclusions of the ICRC’s study on customary international humanitarian law during a regional round-table held in Beijing. The study was being translated into Chinese, in cooperation with a number of academic institutions in China.

Following the success in 2005 of the first event of its kind in the country, diplomats from the DPRK attended a second seminar on IHL and ICRC activities.

ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

The ICRC pursued efforts to promote the inclusion of IHL in the training of the region’s armed forces. A number of activities were undertaken in this respect, with varying degrees of ICRC involvement, ranging from ad hoc presentations, pre-deployment briefings, seminars, train-the-trainer courses and technical assistance. Particular emphasis was placed on improving knowledge of IHL among peacekeeping contingents from China and the ROK.

In China, the Ministries of National Defence and of Public Security and the ICRC established a working relationship to enhance cooperation with the People’s Liberation Army.

- 46 ROK army officers involved in peacekeeping operations and 33 police officers of the China Peacekeeping CIVPOL Training Center attended IHL briefings
- participants in the multinational training exercise “Khan Quest”, organized by the Mongolian and US armed forces, learned about ICRC activities in situations of armed conflict and the application of IHL in peacekeeping operations during a role-play exercise
- 24 IHL instructors trained in Taipei; 2,200 senior armed forces officers attended IHL presentations in Taipei; 37 defence attachés briefed on IHL in Beijing

Promoting IHL in universities

The ICRC strengthened its relations with academic circles in the countries covered. A report commissioned by the ICRC on the current status of IHL teaching in Chinese universities was finalized, ready for use as the basis of dialogue with leading academics on how Chinese third-level institutions might most effectively promote IHL, with ICRC support.

- 4 teams from China attended the regional IHL moot court competition at Hong Kong University, co-organized by the ICRC
- law lecturers from Beijing, Taipei, Ulan Bator and Seoul attended the Asian Academic Symposium on contemporary IHL issues, held in Malaysia (see Kuala Lumpur)
- students in Chinese universities attended lectures given by the ICRC

Teaching IHL in secondary schools

In Mongolia, the Exploring Humanitarian Law pilot project continued. The Ministry of Education, the National Society and the ICRC signed a tripartite agreement to develop the programme over a three-year period, and a team comprising representatives of the ministry and the National
Society was set up to manage the project. The first teacher-training session carried out by Mongolian trainers was held in April, followed by the introduction of the Exploring Humanitarian Law modules in 10 more secondary schools. ICRC guidelines for training and monitoring facilitated the running of the programme. The modules were translated into Mongolian, and editing of the translation began.

Schoolchildren in China’s Shanghai and Sichuan provinces continued to attend Exploring Humanitarian Law classes run by the ICRC and the Red Cross Society of China. The programme modules were translated into Chinese.

Two members of the Mongolian Exploring Humanitarian Law management team and three members of the Chinese Red Cross participated in a regional train-the-trainer event in Malaysia (see Kuala Lumpur), following which they conducted their own train-the-trainer courses with ICRC support.

**RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT**

With ICRC support and participation, the Chinese Red Cross organized its second national tracing seminar. Some 30 Chinese Red Cross staff members from 15 provincial branches attended the event.

The region’s National Societies, with ICRC financial and technical support, continued to promote IHL and the Fundamental Principles, both among their own staff and volunteers and among external audiences.

- 80 disseminators from all provincial Chinese Red Cross branches took part in an annual meeting to evaluate dissemination activities; 7 separate provincial dissemination seminars subsequently organized
- the annual meeting of the press network of the Chinese Red Cross – responsible for publications both at central and at provincial and local levels – held on the promotion of IHL and the Movement
- 48 members of the Red Cross Society of the DPRK, including heads of provincial branches and medical staff, attended sessions on IHL and the Movement held in Sinanju and Wonsan cities
- participants from China, Japan, the ROK, Mongolia, the Philippines, the Russian Federation and the ICRC attended a seminar on the promotion of IHL organized by the ROK National Red Cross IHL Institute to mark its 30th anniversary
The ICRC began working in Malaysia in 1972 and opened a regional delegation in Kuala Lumpur in 2001. In the countries covered, the ICRC endeavours to involve government representatives, leaders, experts and National Societies in reflection on humanitarian issues and to gain their support for its activities. It encourages the ratification and implementation of IHL treaties by the countries covered and the incorporation of IHL into military training and academic curricula.

The delegation hosts the ICRC’s Regional Resource Centre, which supports delegations in East and South-East Asia and the Pacific in promoting IHL and strengthening support for the ICRC’s humanitarian action.

**COVERING**
Brunei Darussalam, Japan, Malaysia, Singapore

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**CONTEXT**

Natural disasters and the issue of “terrorism” remained high on the agenda in Malaysia, Singapore and Japan as well as in regional forums. The three countries sought to respond effectively to natural disasters such as the 2004 tsunami and more recently, the devastation caused by the earthquake in Yogyakarta, Indonesia, in May 2006. Early in the year, Malaysia declared its intention to take on a more visible role in disaster relief by becoming a “humanitarian hub.” Japan strengthened its relations within the Asia-Pacific region. Following his election in October, Japan’s Prime Minister Shinzo Abe visited China and the Republic of Korea.

Malaysia and Brunei also remained concerned about regional stability and sent peacekeepers and observers to conflict-affected areas such as Timor-Leste and Mindanao in the Philippines.

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**KEY POINTS**

In 2006, the ICRC:
- through increased dialogue and improved cooperation: broadened its relationship with political authorities and academic communities in the region; and carried out capacity-building efforts for National Societies in Singapore, Malaysia and Japan;
- as part of its humanitarian diplomacy efforts, established contacts with key Malaysian, Singaporean and Japanese think-tanks with a view to strengthening relations with Asian regional organizations and Track 2 institutions;
- provided support and advice to the Malaysian government in its consideration of a proposal by the armed forces to set up a national IHL committee;
- reached an agreement with the Royal Malaysian Police to conduct pre-deployment briefings for officers departing on peacekeeping missions;
- facilitated the exchange for the first time of greetings and RCMs between detainees, mainly those held in the US detention facility at Guantanamo Bay Naval Station in Cuba, and their families in Malaysia.

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**EXPENDITURE (IN KCHF)**

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</tr>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**IMPLEMENTATION RATE**

Expenditure/yearly budget: 78%

**PERSONNEL**

8 expatriates
17 national staff (daily workers not included)

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**EXPERIMENTAL**

Brunei Darussalam, Japan, Malaysia, Singapore
ICRC ACTION

The main focus of the ICRC delegation’s activities in 2006 continued to be increasing awareness of and compliance with IHL. To this end, the ICRC maintained contact with the region’s authorities to encourage access to and national implementation of IHL instruments. It continued working with the armed forces of the countries covered to advance the integration of IHL into their doctrine and training. It also expanded its network of media and civil society contacts and pursued efforts to promote IHL in academic circles as a way of reaching future decision-makers and opinion-leaders.

The delegation’s Regional Resource Centre, established in 2003, continued to support the efforts of ICRC delegations in East and South-East Asia and the Pacific to enhance their preventive activities and the implementation of IHL in the region.

The ICRC also engaged Asian regional organizations and influential think-tanks in discussions on the integration of humanitarian issues and IHL into their programmes and to enlist their support for its activities and IHL implementation in the region. The ICRC kept up its tracing and family-links network, which was reinforced following the Indian Ocean tsunami at the end of 2004, and sought to extend it to other groups in need of the service. In addition to helping Acehnese in Malaysia keep in touch with family in Indonesia, the regional delegation’s new tracing department was tasked with devising and monitoring a programme to build the tracing capacity of the National Society.

As in past years, the ICRC worked with the National Societies of Japan, Malaysia and Singapore to develop their IHL dissemination programmes.

CIVILIANS

The Acehnese community in Malaysia maintained contact with relatives in Indonesia through the family-links service offered by the ICRC and the National Society. Malaysian families with relatives detained in Guantanamo Bay in Cuba were able to stay in touch with them through the exchange of greetings and RCMs.

The assessment that began at the end of 2005 to identify needs for tracing and family-links services among civilian target populations not yet covered was completed in 2006. In addition to the 20,000 Acehnese living in Malaysia, the exercise identified more than 25,000 people who had fled Myanmar and migrant workers from the Philippines who needed help in re-establishing and maintaining contact with their families at home. The ICRC and the National Society approached these communities with a view to making the family-links service available to them.

Also in Malaysia, cooperation between the ICRC and the National Society in the field of tracing and family links was enhanced when, towards the end of 2006, a number of capacity-building sessions were held for National Society staff in seven state branches across the country. The National Society also invited the ICRC to give presentations on family links during community-based disaster-preparedness courses in five further states.

In Malaysia, cooperation between the ICRC and the National Society in the field of tracing and family links was enhanced when, towards the end of 2006, a number of capacity-building sessions were held for National Society staff in seven state branches across the country. The National Society also invited the ICRC to give presentations on family links during community-based disaster-preparedness courses in five further states.

30 staff from National Society branches and chapters attended a three-day inaugural National Society/ICRC tracing seminar in February

AUTHORITIES

In all countries covered by the regional delegation, contacts with the political authorities intensified. Many of those who participated in events with the ICRC showed an increased interest in issues relating to IHL, such as tracing.

In Malaysia, the authorities took an active part in numerous events aimed at promoting IHL. The proposal to set up a national IHL committee was submitted for consideration by several key ministries, and discussions were under way on the appropriate ministry to assume leadership of the committee.

In Japan, new contacts with the Cabinet Secretariat, the Fire Brigades and the Ministries for Transport and Infrastructure, Education and Health generated greater awareness of IHL. Dialogue was pursued with the Cabinet Secretariat, the Japanese Red Cross Society and influential think-tanks. Discussions with the Japanese authorities and the National Society focused on financial support for the ICRC and increased involvement of Japanese staff in ICRC operations.

In Singapore, the permanent secretaries of the Ministries of Defence and Foreign Affairs and the ICRC had meetings to discuss matters of mutual interest. The ICRC president’s visit to Singapore in October as the foreign minister’s special guest boosted efforts to strengthen ties between the ICRC and key political, military and civil society groups in the country.

Brunei became a party to the Ottawa Convention in 2006 and took a more active role in global humanitarian affairs.

Through its Regional Resource Centre, the delegation maintained regular contacts with key stakeholders in Track 1 diplomacy, such as the Secretariat of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the ministerial departments in Malaysia and the Philippines that dealt with ASEAN-related issues.

ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

In Malaysia, IHL was integrated into the curriculum of the Staff and Command College. The Malaysian navy began to integrate IHL into all of its courses and programmes, and by the end of the year, more than 120 navy personnel had been trained as IHL instructors.

Cooperation with the Japan Self-Defense Forces in IHL dissemination gained momentum. Awareness amongst senior officers of the need to integrate IHL into military teaching and training was enhanced through meetings with and presentations to officers from the Japan Defense Agency and the National Institute for Defense Studies, ground staff and naval officers. A small ICRC-supported programme was developed for personnel training in 2006.
In Singapore, operational dialogue was maintained through meetings with the Ministry of Defence and the Singapore Armed Forces. The ICRC also participated in the annual Five Power Defence Arrangements exercise involving Australia, Malaysia, New Zealand, Singapore and the United Kingdom.

- Malaysian and Singaporean officers departing on peacekeeping and security operations attended three-hour presentations on IHL and the ICRC as part of their pre-deployment briefings.
- A basic IHL course and subsequent train-the-trainer course organized by Malaysia’s Joint Warfare Training Centre.

Contacts were established with the head of Malaysia’s National Police College, the head of the Investigation and Prosecution Department and the overall coordinator of human rights training within the police. The Malaysian police agreed to the ICRC conducting pre-deployment briefings for officers departing on peacekeeping missions.

**CIVIL SOCIETY**

**Raising public awareness of IHL and humanitarian issues**

National and international media representatives attended an ICRC-organized seminar in Malaysia held prior to the Asia Media Summit 2006. Asian journalists also attended a plenary debate organized by the ICRC at the annual conference of the Asia Media Information and Communication Centre, held in Penang, Malaysia.

In Japan, the regional delegation produced the first issue of the *ICRC Bulletin*, a Japanese-language newsletter containing features on the ICRC and humanitarian topics of interest to readers in Japan. Recipients came from the public and private sectors, think-tanks, academia and civil society.

Dialogue was initiated with leading members of Muslim and non-Muslim communities in the region to improve the ICRC’s understanding of their national and international roles, and to broaden dialogue on humanitarian issues.

**Academic circles and secondary schools**

In Malaysia and Singapore, the ICRC held meetings with various academic institutions and think-tanks, at which it presented its activities in the Asia-Pacific region and highlighted humanitarian issues of regional interest. Possibilities for further cooperation in IHL promotion were discussed. The regional delegation organized the Asian Academic Symposium on contemporary IHL issues which brought together participants from countries throughout Asia.

Teacher-training workshops were organized for Malaysian teachers as part of ongoing capacity building in the Exploring Humanitarian Law programme. The ICRC also finalized the official translation of the education pack in Bahasa Malaysia. The Malaysian Ministry of Education and the ICRC developed a teacher-training and teaching and learning modules based on the IHL component of the national Civics and Citizenship Education subject in order to supplement textbooks used in the classroom. Teachers received training to prepare them to teach IHL in schools beginning in 2007.

Students in Malaysia would soon benefit from a pre-diploma IHL course being developed by the Malaysian Red Crescent Society and the ICRC to be launched jointly by the National Society and the International Islamic University Malaysia.

In Japan, translation of the Exploring Humanitarian Law education pack in Japanese was completed. The Japanese Red Cross Society began printing the modules for distribution to teachers, National Society members and Ministry of Education officials to familiarize them further with the programme. The National Society also persisted with its plans to pilot the programme in selected secondary schools, with the support of National Society teachers in Tokyo and surrounding areas.

**Multilateral relations**

The regional delegation identified and established contacts with key stakeholders in Track 2 diplomacy in order to determine potential areas of dialogue and partnership. The ICRC participated in events organized by regional think-tanks, where it presented its activities and discussed humanitarian and security issues of regional interest.

**RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT**

The Malaysian Red Crescent’s capacity to provide tracing and family-links services was continued to be supported by the ICRC in order to enable it to continue to play its part in national and international disaster-management operations.

In addition, financial and other support was maintained to existing internal IHL dissemination programmes that aimed to build up a pool of qualified IHL instructors and trainers to staff the National Society’s training institute.

The Japanese Red Cross remained a strategic partner for the ICRC in its international relief operations, particularly those requiring medical staff. Discussions on how to broaden that partnership were under way. The National Society accepted the ICRC’s offer of support for IHL dissemination and renewed its commitment to promoting the Exploring Humanitarian Law programme in Japan.

The Singapore Red Cross and the ICRC continued to discuss the possibility of expanding joint activities.

The leadership of the Brunei Darussalam Red Crescent Society met ICRC delegates during an ICRC mission to the country.
In 2006, the ICRC conducted visits to detainees held in connection with the situation in Jammu and Kashmir and presented its findings on these visits to representatives of the state and central governments at two round-tables in January and November and through high-level contacts with the central government; conducted a visit to security detainees in Bhutan; organized the 8th and 9th South Asian Teaching Sessions on IHL and Refugee Law and actively participated in the organization of national and regional moot court competitions; conducted a session on IHL at the 50th anniversary of the Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization; launched the pilot phase of its Exploring Humanitarian Law programme in 17 schools in Jammu and Kashmir; began supporting the Bone and Joint Hospital in Srinagar, and maintained support to a physical rehabilitation centre in Jammu, in conjunction with the Indian Red Cross Society; reopened an office in Dhaka to improve cooperation with the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society and to be in a better position to monitor the humanitarian situation in the country; expanded cooperation with the Indian Red Cross Society to include tracing activities following the tsunami.

Tensions continued to simmer in India’s north-eastern states, fuelled by friction between ethnic or tribal groups and related movements for autonomy or independence. Discussions continued between the government and the United Liberation Front of Assam, but in the meantime the rebel movement launched several bomb attacks against civilian targets. In Nagaland, the ceasefire negotiated between the Nationalist Socialist Council of Nagaland and the government was extended for six months. The situation remained tense in Manipur.

In Bangladesh, the political process leading up to national elections scheduled for January 2007 was marked by confrontations between demonstrators and security forces. Some 40 people died, several hundred were injured and an unknown number were detained.

In Bhutan, King Jigme Singye Wangchuck abdicated in favour of his son. The transition occurred without incident.

Some 100,000 Lhotsampas refugees remained in camps in Nepal, while major resettlement programmes were organized for most of them.

The regional delegation in New Delhi opened in 1982. It works through the armed forces, universities, civil society and the media in the region to promote broader understanding and implementation of IHL and to encourage respect for humanitarian rules and principles. It also supports the development of the National Societies in Bangladesh and India and supports some of their assistance programmes in the field. The ICRC visits people arrested and detained in connection with the situation in Jammu and Kashmir (India), as well as in Bhutan and the Maldives.
ICRC ACTION

Visits to detainees held in connection with the situation in Jammu and Kashmir remained the primary focus of the ICRC’s regional delegation in New Delhi. The organization presented the findings of these visits at a high-level meeting between the ICRC’s director of operations and the authorities in February and to representatives of the state and central governments during two round-tables in January and November.

The ICRC stepped up its activities with the Indian Red Cross Society. These included post-tsunami tracing projects in the south and structural support to the two regional offices in Jammu and Kashmir and to branches in Manipur and Tripura in the north-east. The ICRC also supported the Assam branch’s programme to rehabilitate community centres for people displaced by intertribal violence, but the programme’s implementation was hampered by monsoon rains and the resurgence of clashes in the area.

Support was maintained to physical rehabilitation programmes in Jammu and Srinagar, and the ICRC team was reinforced by a physiotherapist, who advised special programmes in Jammu and Kashmir, including 744 newly registered (11 females, 36 minors), during 66 visits to 28 places of detention

In Bangladesh, the ICRC and the National Society implemented a joint water project in the Chittagong Hill Tracts. Travel difficulties and frequent hartals (general strikes) in Chittagong and Dhaka slowed the progress of other planned activities.

The ICRC kept up contact with the authorities in Bhutan and the Maldives, and visited security detainees in Bhutan. Working closely with the International Federation, the ICRC advised the authorities in the Maldives on the creation of a National Society.

The regional delegation kept up a variety of activities to promote IHL among government officials, armed and security forces and universities throughout the region. These included organizing IHL events and activities at national and regional level, making presentations or running sessions on IHL during events organized by others, and sponsoring the participation of leaders, students and teachers in IHL events abroad. The ICRC supported instruction in IHL and international human rights law for the military and police in Bangladesh and India.

CIVILIANS

Refugees and stateless people who did not have passports or other documents needed for travel were issued with ICRC travel documents, at the request of the embassies concerned and in coordination with UNHCR, enabling them to travel to countries granting them asylum or resettlement.

- 316 people issued with ICRC travel documents
  - in India, 52 RCMs collected from and 224 RCMs distributed to civilians
  - in Bhutan, 5 RCMs distributed to civilians

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

India

People detained in connection with the situation in Jammu and Kashmir, including some held in other states, were visited by ICRC teams. They were able to exchange news with their families via RCMs and received visits from relatives whose travel costs were covered by the ICRC. Release checks were carried out for former detainees.

- 1,449 detainees visited and monitored individually (14 females, 44 minors), including 744 newly registered (11 females, 36 minors), during 66 visits to 28 places of detention
- 92 detainees visited by their relatives with the support of the ICRC
- 253 RCMs collected from and 58 distributed to detainees
- 436 release checks carried out
- 195 confirmation of release letters sent
- 16 detainees sought information on their families living in areas hit by the earthquake, and 16 families sent messages to detainees confirming that they were alive

Bhutan

The ICRC visited detainees, relayed RCMs between them and their families and offered families living in neighbouring countries assistance in visiting relatives held in Bhutan. The ICRC shared its recommendations based on these visits with the relevant authorities.

- 43 detainees visited and monitored individually during 2 visits to 2 places of detention
- 72 RCMs collected from and 50 distributed to detainees
- 18 detainees visited by their relatives with the support of the ICRC
In December, a working group on IHL implementation in Bhutan met, focusing on the country’s obligations under the 1949 Geneva Conventions and the Ottawa Convention. Ten officials from the Ministries of Home and Cultural Affairs and of Foreign Affairs, the Royal Bhutan Police and the Attorney General’s Office participated.

The 8th and 9th South Asian Teaching Sessions on IHL and Refugee Law took place in Bangalore and New Delhi in May and November 2006. In Bangalore, 48 government officials from 9 countries (Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Nepal, Myanmar, Pakistan and Sri Lanka) participated, while in New Delhi, 35 delegates from 8 of the same countries participated. Participants included judges, government, military and police officials and members of attorneys-general’s offices and national human rights commissions.

ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

For the first time, the ICRC was able to conduct train-the-trainer workshops for the Indian army and navy, as they drew up plans for teaching programmes on IHL and international human rights law. Government units deployed in counter-insurgency operations in the north-eastern states, in Jammu and Kashmir and in areas affected by Naxalite activity, attended ICRC sessions on IHL. Sessions on IHL were also held for UN peacekeeping forces at the Centre for UN Peacekeeping in New Delhi. A team of Indian cadets won an IHL competition in San Remo, Italy, stimulating their and their officers’ interest in the topic.

Regional government officials attended an ICRC-organized seminar on landmines and other explosive remnants of war in New Delhi, during which the ICRC conducted a special session on IHL.

619 patients (118 women and 21 children) received services at 2 ICRC-supported physical rehabilitation centres

117 new patients (22 women and 4 children) fitted with prostheses and 1 woman with an orthosis

119 prostheses (22 for women and 4 for children; 15 for mine victims), 1 orthosis (for a woman), 45 crutches and 19 wheelchairs delivered

2005. With the cooperation of the National Society, the ICRC installed machinery, provided tools, materials and components and sent two of the centre’s staff members on a one-year training course in Bangalore. They returned in July to work in the centre. In September, the ICRC introduced physiotherapy services for amputees under treatment at the centre and provided the necessary equipment.

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Family links
The National Societies of Bangladesh and India strengthened their tracing services with help from the ICRC. Post-tsunami tracing projects were developed in southern India, including internships abroad for Indian Red Cross tracing staff. These projects became part of the national disaster plan. For the first time, the Indian Red Cross provided services to Bangladeshi fishermen grounded on the coast of India and detained by the local authorities, and joined the Bangladesh Red Crescent in advocating for their repatriation. In Bangladesh, the National Society assisted foreign nationals in prisons and, where necessary, provided them with travel documents with the ICRC’s support. Twenty-seven Bangladesh Red Crescent units participated in family-links training.

IHL promotion
The National Societies of Bangladesh and India pursued their longstanding activities to promote IHL and the Movement, with technical and financial support from the ICRC. Both carried out door-to-door visits, press conferences and seminars as part of their respective campaigns to prevent misuse of the red cross and red crescent emblems.

Assistance to conflict- and disaster-affected populations
National Societies and their branches, with ICRC financial and technical support, implemented assistance programmes for communities affected by violence or natural disaster, particularly in Jammu and Kashmir and Assam in the case of the Indian Red Cross. First-aid training continued, with the incorporation of the Safer Access approach. The Bangladesh Red Crescent carried out water and sanitation programmes in three districts of the Chittagong Hill Tracts. Eleven wells were built and caretakers trained in their maintenance. Some 200 slab latrines were built and 800 mosquito nets distributed.

In areas of India affected by Naxalite activity, the ICRC supported the creation of a new district branch of the Indian Red Cross in Gadchiroli and the procurement of emergency relief stocks for the Gondia branch.

Mine-risk education
The Indian Red Cross continued to develop mine-risk education activities, particularly in Rajasthan, Punjab and Jammu, with the ICRC’s financial and technical support. Activities included assessments and monitoring, as well awareness campaigns and presentations, particularly for volunteers and teachers. Programmes were gradually phased out as areas targeted by the programme were reached.

Creation of a National Society in the Maldives
The International Federation and the ICRC conducted the first joint assessment mission to the Maldives in order to give the authorities legal advice and technical support in setting up a National Society in the country.

The ICRC closely monitored and supported some relief activities after the bomb blasts in Mumbai and the attacks and stampede in Malegaon.
Since 2001, ICRC operations in the Pacific have been carried out by the Suva regional delegation. It assists governments in the ratification and implementation of IHL treaties and promotes respect for and compliance with IHL among the region’s armed and security forces. It also promotes IHL among academic circles, the media and civil society. The ICRC visits people detained in connection with past unrest in Fiji, the Solomon Islands and Timor-Leste and is helping to create a national commission on missing persons in Timor-Leste. The ICRC helps build the conflict-response capacities of the region’s National Societies.

**CONTEXT**

In Fiji, differences between the military and the government culminated in a coup d’état on 5 December.

In Papua New Guinea, the existence of more than 1,000 tribes and 800 languages continued to give rise to competing regional and ethnic loyalties, perpetuating tensions between the different groups. Tribal battles in the Highlands were frequent and deadly.

The peace accord reached on the island of Bougainville in 2001 remained fragile. In May, rebels looted and destroyed the government’s district office, fired on a police vehicle and torched three police stations in Panakei. The national authorities agreed in principle to send police reinforcements to Bougainville and urged the Autonomous Bougainville Government to refrain from using force against the rebels.

The Enhanced Cooperation Programme, a large-scale bilateral initiative between Australia and Papua New Guinea, resumed in July on a much smaller scale, with 10 advisers deployed. The rest of the programme – in terms of both funding and personnel – was put on hold until the general elections in 2007.

Relations between Papua New Guinea and Indonesia were generally good, with Papua New Guinea reaffirming Indonesian sovereignty over West Papua.

The events in Timor-Leste set back the national reconciliation process, and the final report of the Timorese Commission for Reception, Truth and Reconciliation had yet to be made public. The mandate of the Truth and Friendship Commission, set up by Timor-Leste
and Indonesia in 2005, was extended for a second year until August 2007.

In Tonga, rioters destroyed many businesses in the capital Nuku’alofa. The pro-democracy movement and the government blamed each other for the violence.

**ICRC ACTION**

Cooperation with National Societies of the region and the International Federation remained a priority for the delegation, which focused its support on the five Red Cross Societies of Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Timor-Leste and Vanuatu. In addition to operational cooperation, which helped the National Societies prepare for and respond to needs arising from unrest, the delegation assisted in creating a network of dissemination officers able to work at branch level to raise awareness of IHL and the Movement.

In the Solomon Islands, the ICRC provided food and essential household items, through the National Society, to IDPs in Honiara during the upsurge in violence.

In Timor-Leste, the ICRC stepped up its activities following the outbreak of violence that forced tens of thousands of people in Dili to flee their homes. The ICRC and the National Society concentrated on making the city’s main water supply safe, distributing emergency relief to IDPs outside the capital and providing family-links services.

The ICRC continued to visit people detained in connection with past or present unrest in Fiji, the Solomon Islands and Timor-Leste. In the Solomon Islands, the ICRC and the National Society helped families living in remote areas of the country visit their detained relatives.

Work with the governments of the region on accession to and implementation of IHL instruments progressed well. Nauru became party to the 1949 Geneva Conventions and both 1977 Additional Protocols. It also signed Additional Protocol III, along with Australia and New Zealand.

The ICRC continued to promote accession to IHL treaties by all the countries in the region and organized or participated in events to raise governments’ awareness of the importance of so doing. The Australian government and the ICRC signed a headquarters agreement, giving the ICRC a special status in the country.

The delegation continued to foster relations with the armed forces, media, academic circles, NGOs and traditional leaders in the Pacific with a view to promoting IHL and garnering support for ICRC operations in the region and around the world.

ICRC Vice-President Jacques Forster met representatives of the Australian and New Zealand governments, the respective National Societies, the media and think-tanks during a visit to the region. Discussions touched on a wide range of important humanitarian issues.

**CIVILIANS**

Various assessments were carried out in Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands, Timor-Leste and Tonga, with a view to identifying possible needs, establishing relations with relevant contacts and supporting the National Societies in their humanitarian activities.

In the Solomon Islands, the ICRC, together with the Solomon Islands Red Cross, distributed food and essential household items to about 600 IDPs in Honiara during the upsurge in violence.

The main concern for people displaced by the unrest in Timor-Leste was a lack of water and sanitation facilities in the places in which they had congregated. ICRC and National Society engineers worked to ensure the full functioning of the capital’s main pumping station – the only facility able to provide clean water for trucking. Families in ten IDP locations in the city benefited from the 100,000 litres of water distributed each day at the beginning of the crisis. IDPs who had settled in makeshift camps, derelict buildings and other sites outside the town also benefited from an improved water source (for example, in Baucau, the ICRC established 30 water points serving some 7,500 people). In addition, the ICRC undertook six small community-based water and sanitation projects in the western and eastern districts of Timor-Leste.

Many displaced families stayed with relatives, significantly increasing household numbers. This placed enormous pressure on family resources, not only in terms of water but also of essential household items. More than 60,000 IDPs were given mosquito nets, tarpaulins, jerry cans, hygiene kits, blankets and sleeping mats by the ICRC and National Society to ease the burden on their hosts or to enable them to cope during their stay in the camps.

- 17,432 IDPs and 1,230 residents supplied with water
- 62,362 IDPs (13,348 households) received essential household items
Restoring family links
The Timor-Leste Red Cross Society received increased support during the violence in the country to enable it to cope with emerging needs. Civilians in Timor-Leste were able to restore and maintain contact with their relatives by means of the RCM and tracing services offered by the National Society, with the support of the ICRC and a tracing delegate seconded by the Australian Red Cross.

Unaccompanied and separated minors were registered by the ICRC, which then attempted to find their families in close coordination with the government and other agencies concerned.

Work towards establishing an independent commission to address humanitarian needs related to persons missing as a result of past conflict in Timor-Leste had to be put on hold following the outbreak of violence in April and May.

- 359 RCMs collected by the National Society from people in Timor-Leste and 277 RCMs distributed; new tracing requests registered for 2 people (1 female, 1 minor at the time of disappearance); 2,544 people (435 females, 562 minors at the time of disappearance) still being sought
- 8 people still being sought in the Solomon Islands

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

People detained in connection with past or present unrest in Fiji, the Solomon Islands and Timor-Leste continued to receive visits from ICRC delegates, who monitored their treatment and living conditions. Confidential reports were submitted to the authorities after the visits.

In the Solomon Islands, newly appointed prison officers attended a dissemination session organized by the ICRC at the request of the prison service.

- in Fiji, 76 detainees visited, 64 of them monitored individually, including 5 newly registered during 8 visits to 5 places of detention; 3 RCMs collected from detainees
- in the Solomon Islands, 227 detainees visited, 88 of them monitored individually (1 female, 1 minor), including 58 newly registered (1 minor) during 2 visits to 1 place of detention
- in Timor-Leste, 337 detainees visited, 99 of them monitored individually (2 minors), including 70 newly registered (2 minors) during 18 visits to 9 places of detention; 224 RCMs collected from and 269 RCMs distributed to detainees
- 45 participants from countries in the Asia-Pacific region and representatives of the Australian Federal Police, the Australian Electoral Commission and the humanitarian NGO RedR attended an IHL presentation at the ADF Peacekeeping Centre
- 26 participants from 11 countries attended an IHL presentation during a military observers’ course at the ADF Warfare Centre
- civil and military representatives of the Pacific region and other countries, including Iraq, attended a course on civil-military cooperation at the Asia-Pacific Centre for Military Law in Sydney; students from 11 different countries participated in a command and staff operations law course at the same establishment
- participants in ADF training exercises, such as “Exercise Excalibur”, learned about IHL and ICRC activities
- individuals from Pacific military forces attended overseas IHL training courses thanks to ICRC sponsorship

Projects initiated with the armed and security forces in Timor-Leste had to be put on hold owing to the unrest in April and May 2006.

CIVIL SOCIETY

The region’s print, radio and television journalists, as individuals and in associations, were regularly briefed on IHL and ICRC activities of specific interest, such as the rehabilitation of mine victims, visits to people held in the US detention facility at the Guantanamo Bay Naval Station in Cuba and the humanitarian response to the war in Lebanon and to the violence in Timor-Leste and the Solomon Islands. They regularly received newsletters on ICRC activities, humanitarian issues and contexts of interest to encourage them to devote more coverage to such topics and increase awareness and understanding of the organization’s work. The media, mainly in Australia and New Zealand, continued to pick up ICRC press releases.

Representatives of various universities, including the faculty of arts and law of the University of the South Pacific in Vanuatu, discussed with the ICRC the possibility of integrating IHL into their curricula or possible future cooperation on IHL promotion.

Representatives of various think-tanks, such as the Sydney-based Lowy Institute and the...
Contact with selected international organizations and NGOs in Australia and Fiji aimed to heighten their awareness of the ICRC’s mandate and activities and to strengthen cooperation in areas of mutual concern.

Traditional leaders in Papua New Guinea, the Solomon Islands and Timor-Leste and the ICRC held discussions to give the ICRC a clearer idea of the role that the leaders played in their communities and to garner their support for ICRC action and the promotion of IHL.

- students at Monash University and the University of New South Wales attended presentations on the ICRC and IHL
- members of the Australian Law Students’ Association took part in an IHL moot court competition at the Federal Court in Melbourne, for which the ICRC acted as a judge
- civil servants, police officers and NGO leaders attending thrice-yearly training seminars organized by the Fiji Women’s Crisis Centre briefed on topics such as women and war and the humanitarian role of the ICRC in armed conflicts
- representatives of the media, academia, the diplomatic corps, judiciary and defence force attended an exhibition on human rights and IHL co-hosted by the ICRC at the Swiss embassy in Australia
- participants in various other events throughout Australia, such as an Oxfam protection conference and a conference on customary IHL at Flinders University, attended presentations on IHL and ICRC activities

RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT

Cooperation with National Societies of the region and the International Federation remained a priority for the delegation, which focused its support on the five Red Cross Societies of Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Timor-Leste and Vanuatu.

Special attention was paid to integrating the Safer Access approach into all National Society activities. This helped the National Societies of Fiji, Papua New Guinea, the Solomon Islands, Timor-Leste and Tonga respond to needs arising from the violence in their respective countries. The Timor-Leste Red Cross received substantial technical and material support from the ICRC in providing assistance to the population and carrying out tracing activities (see Civilians).

Another priority in 2006 was the creation of a network of dissemination volunteers at branch level. Branch disseminators in Fiji, Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands attended five workshops, one of which was co-facilitated by a dissemination specialist from the Australian Red Cross.

Cooperation between the Australian and New Zealand Red Cross Societies, the International Federation and the ICRC was improved through regular coordination meetings and through ICRC participation in basic training courses organized by the National Societies and aimed at preparing their delegates for overseas postings.

- 45 volunteers trained in organizing dissemination sessions
- the region’s National Societies received a total of 120 ICRC-designed dissemination kits comprising a manual, 10 dissemination modules, reference texts, posters and a CD-ROM
- more than 14,540 people attended some 730 dissemination events organized by the National Societies of Fiji, Papua New Guinea, the Solomon Islands, Timor-Leste and Vanuatu, with ICRC support
- 68 radio spots, 8,000 pamphlets, calendars and 2 promotional songs produced by the National Societies of the region
Since 1992, the ICRC’s regional delegation in Central Asia has worked with the armed forces and civilian educational establishments to develop IHL teaching programmes, has promoted the ratification of IHL instruments and the adoption of implementing legislation, and has helped National Societies in the region promote IHL and strengthen their capacities to assist victims of violence. The regional delegation focuses on protecting and assisting detainees held for security reasons. It also supports efforts to control tuberculosis in Kyrgyz prisons.

**CONTEXT**

Human rights organizations and some media criticized Uzbekistan for the imprisonment of prominent opposition leaders and trials of alleged Islamic extremists. The government requested UNHCR to leave the country after it played an active role in assisting refugees from Andijan who had fled to Kyrgyzstan in May 2005. It also closed down a number of NGOs. Meanwhile, Uzbekistan stepped up diplomatic contacts with China, India, Pakistan and the Russian Federation. In the second half of the year, negotiations aimed at improving relations with the European Union began.

More than a year after the “Tulip Revolution” brought about a change of government, Kyrgyzstan showed few signs of economic reform or growth. Poverty and unemployment prompted large numbers of people to emigrate. The end of the year was a tumultuous period of political crises involving the continuing standoff between the president and parliament, the resignation of the government and the successive adoption of two conflicting constitutions, which paralysed the normal functioning of the government.

The incumbent president won the presidential elections in Tajikistan in November 2006, with the main opposition parties boycotting the elections. Some key opposition leaders remained in custody, and alleged members of banned Islamic groups were arrested.
ICRC ACTION

ICRC operations in Central Asia focused on detention-related activities. Visits continued in Kyrgyzstan to detainees in prisons. Delegates also visited people held in police stations, to which the ICRC had gained access in the second half of 2005. Detention visits remained on hold in Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, after being suspended in late 2004.

In Kyrgyzstan, the regional delegation assessed the treatment and conditions of detention in the penitentiary system as a whole. Following its visits, the ICRC submitted confidential reports on its findings to the government, including recommendations for the authorities’ reform plans. When the authorities put their reform plans to the international community, the ICRC endeavoured to mobilize donor support for them. The regional delegation also continued to work with other international organizations to support the Kyrgyz government’s tuberculosis (TB) programme in prisons.

In Tajikistan, the ICRC made little headway in its efforts to restart visits to detainees. In Uzbekistan, negotiations to resume visits intensified in autumn but there was no concrete breakthrough during the year under review. Dialogue with the Turkmen authorities on detention-related activities continued but without reaching an agreement.

Since the dissolution of the Soviet Union, the regional delegation had worked with Central Asian military training institutions, universities and secondary schools to develop and institutionalize IHL instruction. It continued to organize IHL events, courses and competitions at national or regional level, and sponsored the participation of Central Asian military personnel, academics and government officials in IHL conferences and events in other countries.

The ICRC gradually decreased its support to the only physical rehabilitation centre in Tajikistan, as the government was ready to assume more responsibility for running the facility.

The regional delegation worked closely with the International Federation to help Central Asian National Societies develop stronger institutional bases. By the end of the year, a memorandum of understanding to improve cooperation was signed by the ICRC, the International Federation and each of the five National Societies.

CIVILIANS

The ICRC facilitated the restoration of family links, in particular for families in Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan.

- 151 RCMs collected from and
- 245 RCMs distributed to civilians
- 46 people issued with ICRC travel documents

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

Kyrgyzstan

From the end of May, detainees held in detention facilities administered by the Prisons Department, including those condemned to death, were again able to receive visits from ICRC delegates and to exchange RCMs with their families. The ICRC made recommendations to improve their conditions of detention. People detained in police stations also received visits from the ICRC, which began in August 2005.

Since a moratorium on capital executions was adopted in 1998, legislation to clarify the status of people condemned to death was delayed. The ICRC gave priority to these detainees because of their particular vulnerability. They received regular visits and basic assistance such as bedding and hygiene kits. Additionally, detainees sentenced to death whose families were abroad could correspond with them via RCMs.

When developing the prison reform policy adopted in March 2006, the Kyrgyz authorities drew on the ICRC’s input, including its comprehensive report on the prison system submitted in August 2005. The ICRC contacted potential donors and organizations to draw attention to the reform plan and the government’s need for funds to implement it, but made little headway in attracting funding for the process.

TB remained a serious threat to public health, and prisons continued to be a primary breeding ground for the disease. The Kyrgyz Ministry of Health had already introduced the WHO-approved directly observed treatment, short course (DOTS) strategy around the country, while the Ministry of Justice continued its efforts to introduce DOTS in prisons, with the support of the Ministry of Health, the ICRC and other international organizations.

In 2006, detainees in TB colony 27 benefited from upgrades to the water and sanitation system and laboratory facilities. Prison staff and detainees received TB education, patients were given medications to control the side effects of the TB treatment, and the infirmary and roof of the TB hospital were repaired with the ICRC’s financial support. Medical staff were trained and supervised in introducing DOTS in the colony, and the DOTS programmes in colony/SIZO 14 for minors and colony 2 for women were strengthened.
11,686 detainees visited, 52 (1 woman) of them monitored individually, including 23 newly registered, during 59 visits to 35 places of detention
171 RCMs collected from and 84 RCMs distributed to detainees
26 phone calls made by released detainees to inform their families of their whereabouts

Uzbekistan
A dialogue was pursued with the relevant authorities on resuming visits to places of detention suspended since December 2004.

3 RCMs distributed to detainees through the Red Crescent Society of Uzbekistan
4 phone calls made by released detainees to inform their families of their whereabouts

Tajikistan
In Tajikistan, the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Justice and the ICRC worked to establish the conditions needed to restart visits interrupted in September 2004. No progress had been made by the end of the year.

351 children (1,252 patients (216 women and 31 for children; 47 for mine victims), 204 orthoses (33 for women and 127 for children), 320 crutches and walking aids delivered

WOUNDED AND SICK
The Tajik Ministry of Labour and Social Protection, with ICRC support, ran the physical rehabilitation facility in Dushanbe, with satellite workshops in Khojand, Khorog and Kulyab. The government kept up its efforts to take more financial responsibility for running the facility as the ICRC gradually scaled back its funding. Nevertheless, the government had difficulty covering transport expenses and food for patients, and could not fully cover salaries needed to retain qualified staff. It was clear that the centre would still need external financial support to ensure long-term access to physical rehabilitation services.

1,252 patients (216 women and 351 children) received services at the ICRC-supported physical rehabilitation centre
143 new patients (19 women and 8 children) fitted with prostheses and 97 (17 women and 61 children) with orthoses
400 prostheses (66 for women and 31 for children; 47 for mine victims), 204 orthoses (33 for women and 127 for children), 320 crutches and walking aids delivered

AUTHORITIES
Kyrgyzstan reconstituted its national committee for the implementation of IHL under the auspices of the Ministry of Justice, and used the ICRC’s technical support to draft a bill to strengthen war crimes legislation. The draft bills proposed additions to the Criminal Code concerning military crimes and to the Administrative Liability Code concerning violations of the Emblem Law.

Tajikistan’s authorities announced their intention to conduct a study on the compatibility of national legislation with the Ottawa Convention.

ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS
Several armed, security and police forces in Central Asia still needed to enhance IHL integration into their education and training. The ICRC therefore focused on promoting the integration of IHL into military training programmes across the region and, in Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, into the training curricula of interior troops and border forces. The Kyrgyzstan and Turkmenistan authorities agreed on formal cooperation with the ICRC in the field of IHL training for the armed forces. Members of the region’s armed forces and some government ministries participated in the Al Farabi IHL competition in Kazakhstan. The ICRC also played an advisory role in NATO exercises in Kazakhstan.

in Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan, army instructors participated in IHL train-the-trainer courses
in Kyrgyzstan, the Ministry of Defence and the ICRC concluded an agreement on the integration of IHL in military training
in Tajikistan, military lawyers and prosecutors attended an IHL train-the-trainer course
an IHL instruction manual for the Uzbek armed forces was published

CIVIL SOCIETY
Secondary schools
In Kazakhstan, the education authorities approved the Exploring Humanitarian Law modules as an additional learning tool and recommended their use in schools starting in 2007.

The delegation also focused on pre-military education in schools and military lyceums (under the authority of the Ministry of Education) in Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. The Kyrgyz National Military Lyceum integrated IHL into its pre-military training curriculum.

The ICRC established a resource centre on IHL in Kyrgyzstan. An agreement was signed between the Tajik Red Crescent and the Ministry of Education on educating students in IHL and human rights law.

national seminars for teachers of pre-military training conducted in Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan
staff of Tajikistan’s National Military Lyceum attended an IHL seminar
directors of the military lyceums attended the 2nd regional IHL workshop in Uzbekistan
22 students representing all Kyrgyz regions attended the finals of a national student competition on IHL principles organized in cooperation with the Red Crescent Society of Kyrgyzstan and the Ministry of Education
50 students attended an IHL summer camp in Tajikistan
Universities
For 10 years, a network of Central Asian universities had cooperated with the ICRC to develop courses and research in IHL. In January 2006, the network was enlarged to include Khudjant State University (Tajikistan) and Samarkand and Nukus state universities (Uzbekistan).

To enhance IHL teaching expertise, representatives of partner universities (except for those in Uzbekistan, who were not permitted to travel abroad) worked with the ICRC to organize IHL events at the regional and national level. With the ICRC’s sponsorship, their representatives also attended IHL events further afield.

Several undergraduate students completed diploma papers on IHL, and a growing number of lecturers from the region were used as resource persons during the various teaching programmes. University students and lecturers attended the following IHL events and activities during the year:
- the first Central Asian IHL scientific and practical conference for undergraduate and postgraduate students in Almaty, Kazakhstan;
- the seventh annual Central Asian IHL competition in Issyk Kul, Kyrgyzstan;
- national IHL courses in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan;
- IHL courses in Warsaw and Moscow;
- a national IHL competition in Tajikistan;
- the Jean Pictet IHL competition in Belgrade (a Kyrgyz team);
- the second Central Asian advanced IHL course in Samarkand, Uzbekistan.

Media
The ICRC kept in touch with the region’s media to improve coverage of humanitarian issues and activities. Tajik television produced two spots on mine action, broadcasting them in the mine-affected Soughd region. The summer camp for students and a round-table for journalists were broadcast by the national and local television stations. Kyrgyz television broadcast the film “Through humanism to peace”, accompanied by an interview with the chairman of the Red Crescent Society of Kyrgyzstan. Henry Dunant’s *A Memory of Solferino* was published in Uzbek, the first translation of the book in a Central Asian language.

RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT
The National Societies of the region continued to build their institutional capacities with financial support and advice from the ICRC and the International Federation. They helped restore and maintain family links, promoted IHL and were ready to assist victims of violence and natural disaster. They developed their capacities through activities organized at national and regional level, often with the ICRC’s funding or expertise. They helped the ICRC develop and implement its activities, assisting in the exchange of RCMs or promoting IHL in secondary schools or among armed forces. In Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan, the National Societies were also involved in mine-risk education.

In 2006:
- branch-level staff and volunteers from each of the Central Asian National Societies attended IHL training organized by the ICRC; 10 volunteers from each National Society exchanged experiences in a regional seminar for Red Crescent volunteers;
- National Society administrators were given financial training;
- National Society coordinators organized a programme entitled “Humanitarian and medical assistance to the victims of a conflict” at a regional working meeting on harmonization of programme materials and methods;
- the National Societies of Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan helped relay RCMs between detainees and their families, and followed up tracing requests;
- the National Societies in Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan adopted new statutes during the reporting period, and the Red Crescent Society of Kyrgyzstan engaged in structural reform;
- National Societies promoted the Movement and its Fundamental Principles in a variety of events during World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day;
- National Society leadership from Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan participated in the regional family-links conference in Kyiv;
- the Central Asian National Societies signed a memorandum of understanding with the ICRC and the International Federation to improve Movement coordination.
EUROPE AND THE AMERICAS

EUROPE DELEGATIONS
- Armenia
- Azerbaijan
- Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Georgia

EUROPE REGIONAL DELEGATIONS
- Belgrade
- Budapest
- Kyiv
- Moscow
- Ankara
- Brussels
- International Tracing Service
- London
- Paris

THE AMERICAS DELEGATIONS
- Colombia
- Haiti

THE AMERICAS REGIONAL DELEGATIONS
- Buenos Aires
- Caracas
- Lima
- Mexico City
- Washington
- New York

EXPENDITURE (IN KCHF)
- Protection 22,527
- Assistance 50,024
- Prevention 36,914
- Cooperation with National Societies 13,975
- General 75

123,515 of which: Overheads 7,492

Implementation rate 92%
In 2006, the situations in both the northern and the southern Caucasus remained unstable. Security incidents occurred almost weekly in Chechnya, Daghestan and Ingushetia, and tensions persisted in other republics of the Russian Federation. Abkhazia and South Ossetia continued to express their wish for independence from Georgia, and negotiations to find a settlement of both conflicts suffered serious setbacks. Hopes of progress towards a solution to the 18-year Nagorny Karabakh conflict were not fulfilled, and tensions rose on the front line, with numerous ceasefire violations reported by both Armenia and Azerbaijan. Although the majority of countries in the Balkans progressed towards stability, the security situation in Kosovo remained fragile, with interethnic tensions ever present.

Colombia’s protracted armed conflict, rooted in the struggle for control of land and economic resources, remained the only large-scale armed conflict in the Americas, giving rise to one of the largest displaced populations in the world. In many other Latin American countries, however, indigenous and land-distribution issues, as well as poverty and social inequality, continued to fuel growing social discontent, leading increasingly to violent clashes between demonstrators and law-enforcement agencies, at times posing a threat to political stability. In Haiti, after a lull in armed violence following presidential elections in February, the security situation deteriorated again by mid-year, spreading to several neighbourhoods in the capital and aggravating the wide array of humanitarian problems faced daily by most of the population.

Across this highly diverse region, encompassing three continents, the ICRC pursued efforts to respond to needs arising from conflict and tensions by protecting and assisting those affected. It focused on: people deprived of their freedom for reasons of State security, in particular those held in connection with the “global war on terror”; the families of people unaccounted for in relation to armed conflict; and people displaced or otherwise made vulnerable by armed conflict and other situations of violence.

In many countries, delegates continued to monitor the conditions of detention of people detained for security reasons, such as those held in connection with past conflicts in the former Yugoslavia. After conducting private interviews with such the detainees, the ICRC submitted confidential reports to the authorities containing, where necessary, recommendations for improving treatment and living conditions. It also offered its expertise to help penitentiary authorities implement its recommendations. In Bolivia, Colombia, Paraguay and Peru, for example, it supported efforts to upgrade health services for detainees, and in Haiti, it refurbished three prisons, trained local prison health staff and took appropriate measures to stem an outbreak of beriberi. In Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia, the ICRC maintained its support to the tuberculosis control programme in prisons.

Its work in relation to people held in connection with the “global war on terror” remained a crucial aspect of the ICRC’s activities. Delegates made regular visits to people held under US authority at the Guantanamo Bay Naval Station in Cuba and the Charleston Navy Brig in South Carolina. During the year, the US authorities spelled out norms for the treatment of detainees/internees and made Article 3 common to the 1949 Geneva Conventions legally applicable to people held in the fight against “terrorism”. Additionally, the US administration acknowledged the existence of a secret detention programme run by its Central Intelligence Agency and granted the ICRC access to some of the detainees/internees previously held within that programme and transferred to Guantanamo Bay. Nevertheless, disagreement lingered between the ICRC and the United States on what constituted an appropriate legal framework applicable to US detention operations in Guantanamo Bay, Afghanistan and Iraq, and the long-term detention/internment of individuals in Guantanamo Bay outside a clear legal process remained a serious concern to the organization.

Given the negative outcome of 18 months of discussions with the Russian authorities, ICRC delegates were still not able to resume visits to people held in connection with the situation in Chechnya. Nevertheless, the ICRC continued to assist close relatives of detainees in visiting their family members in penal colonies. The Belarusian authorities also turned down the ICRC’s offer to visit people detained in connection with post-election protests.

The ICRC remained actively involved in the quest to determine the fate of missing persons, one of the most painful legacies of conflict. It endeavoured to develop a steady dialogue on the issue with the authorities in the Russian Federation at all levels, and made strong representations to national authorities and international organizations dealing with the issue in other contexts across the region. Meanwhile, the ICRC carried out specific activities to address the problem, particularly in the countries of the former Yugoslavia, those of the southern Caucasus, Colombia, Guatemala and Peru. Some activities focused directly on measures to clarify the fate of persons unaccounted for, such as technical support in the handling of human remains and the collection of ante-mortem data. Others involved the provision of support to the families of missing persons to help them cope with the situation, either directly, by enabling them to travel to exhumation sites to identify their relatives, or indirectly, by providing technical and financial assistance to family associations and advocating recognition of their legal and administrative rights.

The ICRC continued to promote the setting up of national or multilateral mechanisms to resolve issues related to persons unaccounted for in connection with conflict. In Colombia, Guatemala and Peru, it supported the authorities’ efforts to create or consolidate national commissions on missing persons by providing them with legal and technical advice. In Bosnia and Herzegovina, it continued to assist in establishing an effective and sustainable Missing Persons Institute at the State level to serve as a focal point for missing persons and their families. While continuing to chair the Working Group on Missing Persons in Kosovo, the ICRC stepped up dialogue with both the national and international authorities in an effort to encourage them to honour their commitments and provide the families of missing persons with answers regarding the fate of their relatives. Lastly, the ICRC handed over responsibility for the future management of files of persons reported missing during the conflict in Croatia to the National Society and closed its mission in Zagreb.

The ICRC backed the development of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, adopted in December 2006 by the UN General Assembly. Relatives separated by conflict throughout the region continued to benefit from the ICRC’s RCM and tracing services.

Other protection activities focused on promoting greater knowledge of IHL among parties to conflict (be they governments, armed and security forces or armed groups), the authorities and influential sectors of civil society, in order to improve
respect for IHL and further its implementation. Students, as future leaders and opinion-makers, were familiarized with IHL through the integration of the subject into secondary school and university curricula.

The ICRC continued to work with governments towards the ratification of IHL instruments and the incorporation of their provisions into domestic legislation, often through dedicated interministerial committees. Such national IHL committees were newly established in Ecuador, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Romania in 2006.

Humanitarian diplomacy was pursued through ICRC delegations in the region, particularly those in Brussels (for relations with the European Union and NATO), New York (for the UN) and Washington (for the Organization of American States). In these international forums, the ICRC strove to promote knowledge, understanding and, whenever appropriate, the development of IHL, as well as to defend and promote impartial, neutral and independent humanitarian action.

The ICRC also continued to work with armed and security forces to integrate IHL and international human rights law respectively into their doctrine, operations and training programmes. It offered its support in the form of ad hoc presentations, seminars, train-the-trainer courses, pre-deployment briefings for troops departing on peacekeeping operations, and technical assistance. A cooperation agreement was signed between the ICRC and the Conference of Central American Armed Forces to create working groups on the appropriate use of force in law enforcement operations and on the distinction between IHL and international human rights law.

In Europe, the ICRC participated in NATO-led military training exercises. In addition to providing support to individual academic establishments, the ICRC held national IHL moot court competitions in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, the Republic of Moldova, Serbia and Ukraine. The Exploring Humanitarian Law programme continued to be implemented in secondary schools in many countries in Europe and Latin America. It was newly introduced in Transnistria, the breakaway region of the Republic of Moldova, and in Brazil as a pilot project in violence-prone shanty towns. Preparations were under way to implement the programme in Albania, Estonia, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Romania and Serbia.

In addition to its protection and prevention activities, the ICRC continued to provide relief to people displaced or otherwise made vulnerable by current situations of violence. In Colombia, it remained the only major organization with access to victims in the zones hardest hit by the armed conflict. It concentrated its field activities in some 20 priority zones where needs were greatest, providing food and essential household items to IDPs and residents. It developed a voucher programme in Bogotá and Medellín to better address the needs of newly arrived IDPs. The ICRC also worked to improve access to health services in these areas through a flexible range of options, including dispensing curative medical care, directing beneficiaries to government health facilities, accompanying Ministry of Health personnel on their rounds and running mobile health units in conjunction with partner National Societies. The organization nevertheless continued to face major challenges in conducting its operation in Colombia, in terms both of the resources required and of carrying out neutral and impartial humanitarian activities in a climate of persistent IHL violations. In Haiti, the ICRC continued to assist the Haitian Red Cross in evacuating hundreds of wounded people from Cité Soleil, one of the country's most violence-prone shantytowns, where it also worked to improve water supply and sanitation.

Although fighting continued in Chechnya, the overall security situation there saw a slight improvement. This, along with the authorities’ policy of reconstruction led the humanitarian community to rethink its programmes and to shift gradually from emergency aid to rehabilitation and development. The ICRC, too, continued to adapt to the evolving situation and significantly scaled down its assistance programmes in the republic, although the number of people benefiting from distributions of essential household items and an improved water supply remained substantial. Owing to greater investment from the authorities, the ICRC also slightly reduced its support to the health system, while continuing to assist 13 hospitals and a physical rehabilitation facility.

In Abkhazia and western Georgia, the ICRC distributed food and essential household items to destitute people and gave grants to vulnerable households to help reduce their dependency on external aid. It repaired and upgraded collective centres for IDPs and, with the authorities, created a database to consolidate information on all such centres throughout Georgia. With security slightly improved, the organization was able to reach all the communities in Georgia’s Gali region for the first time in over five years and extended its presence in South Ossetia.

After reviewing its assistance activities, the ICRC ceased food distributions in western Georgia, ending four years of support to IDPs and residents. Likewise, the ICRC food canteens, which had served the destitute in Abkhazia for the previous 14 years, closed. The handover to the authorities of responsibility for support to the destitute allowed the ICRC to close its office in Kutaisi and reduce staff in western Georgia.

The ICRC continued to develop the capacities of the region’s National Societies to act reliably, independently and impartially. This translated mainly into support for tracing, emergency preparedness and IHL promotion programmes. The organization supported specific programmes run by the National Societies of the northern and southern Caucasus to meet the needs of vulnerable and conflict-affected populations. It further reinforced the capacities of Latin American National Societies to respond effectively to the needs of victims of internal violence, while enhancing the safety of their workers by introducing them to the Safer Access approach.
The ICRC has been working in Armenia since 1992 in relation to the Nagorny Karabakh conflict. It focuses on addressing the issue of missing persons and the problems of detainees held in connection with the conflict, detained for security reasons or otherwise vulnerable, and monitors the situation of communities along the Line of Contact. It supports the authorities in bringing the spread of tuberculosis under control in prisons. It also promotes the national implementation of IHL and its integration into the training of the armed and security forces and into university and school curricula. The ICRC works to strengthen the capacities of the Armenian Red Cross Society.

Contex

The Armenian economy continued to show two-digit growth, largely driven by the construction sector, even though the deterioration in relations between Georgia and the Russian Federation had a slowing-down effect on Armenian trade.

Armenia sought to pursue a balanced foreign policy, strengthening ties with the Russian Federation, the United States, the European Union (EU) and the Islamic Republic of Iran. President Robert Kocharian visited Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran, in July to discuss regional issues. The “gas crisis” with the Russian Federation, its principal energy supplier, ended in April with the signing of a new deal. Meanwhile, Armenia received a five-year USD 236 million grant from the United States within the framework of the Millennium Challenge Account in order to reduce poverty and foster development in rural areas. Armenia and NATO reinforced their links by concluding an agreement within the Individual Partnership Action Plan.

The EU reviewed the mandate of its new Special Representative for the South Caucasus. It confirmed its commitment to assist Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia in implementing political and economic reforms and focused its mandate on conflict resolution, including through promoting the return of refugees and IDPs. In November, the EU and Armenia adopted a five-year plan of action within the European Neighbourhood Policy.

Given that no elections were scheduled to take place in 2006 in either Armenia or Azerbaijan, the year was portrayed by many as “a unique window of opportunity” to make progress towards a settlement of the 18-year Nagorny Karabakh conflict. Despite three meetings between the presidents of Armenia and Azerbaijan, making a total of eight since 2003, and the intense shuttle diplomacy led by the co-chairmen of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) Minsk Group, there was no significant breakthrough.

On the front line, tensions rose in spring and autumn. Numerous ceasefire violations were reported by both sides, and casualty figures increased mainly among the ranks of soldiers. The conflict was still an important factor influencing domestic politics in both Armenia and Azerbaijan, which continued to employ military rhetoric.
ICRC ACTION

In April, ICRC President Jakob Kellenberger visited the southern Caucasus and met the highest authorities in Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia. In Armenia, the main focus of the talks was on the fate of persons missing as a result of the Nagorny Karabakh conflict.

The impact of ongoing tensions between Armenia and Azerbaijan on the population living along the international border continued to elicit the ICRC’s attention. Regular field missions enhanced the organization’s already well-developed presence established through programmes conducted in partnership with the Armenian Red Cross Society.

The ICRC continued to monitor the conditions of detention and treatment of people deprived of their liberty, in particular certain categories of detainees more vulnerable than others. It maintained its support to the Ministry of Justice in strengthening its medical services in prisons, especially the tuberculosis (TB) control programme, in relation to which the ICRC concentrated on building the capacity of the authorities in preparation for the phase-out of its involvement planned for 2008.

Efforts were pursued to familiarize the relevant authorities with IHL issues and to obtain their support for IHL implementation. As part of this process, the ICRC facilitated dialogue between Armenian experts and government officials and foreign and international experts. It continued to support the work of IHL instructors in military educational institutions by providing technical expertise and training. It cooperated with the education authorities and closely followed education reforms with the aim of providing the support needed for the integration of IHL basics into the secondary school curriculum. The ICRC also worked to enhance IHL knowledge among university students and to reinforce relations with the media and other key elements of civil society.

The ICRC continued to support the Armenian Red Cross Society in strengthening its capacity, particularly in IHL dissemination and tracing activities. It also laid the groundwork for an operational partnership in the collection of ante-mortem data from the families of persons missing in connection with the Nagorny Karabakh conflict.

CIVILIANS

In an effort to better understand the situation faced by conflict-affected populations and follow up on individual cases, the ICRC conducted regular field missions and expanded contacts with the local population and the civilian and military authorities in the front-line regions.

Moreover, it strengthened relations with regional branches of the Armenian Red Cross Society and contributed financially to basic first-aid courses organized for the local population. Dialogue was also reinforced with other humanitarian organizations working in these areas.

Missing persons

The consolidation of the ICRC’s list of persons missing in relation to the Nagorny Karabakh conflict with that of the authorities continued through direct contacts with families. By the end of the year, the ICRC’s list of missing persons from Armenia, Azerbaijan and Nagorny Karabakh totalled 4,176 names (for details see Azerbaijan).

The Armenian and Azerbaijani State Commissions on Missing Persons pursued dialogue with the ICRC on the implementation of proposals outlined by the ICRC in its January 2005 memorandum. The highest authorities of Armenia formally committed themselves to implement the memorandum. The Armenian State commission underwent profound internal changes, bringing a fresh impetus to its activities related to missing persons. Both State commissions took part in the European Workshop on National Mechanisms and Legal Measures to Prevent Disappearances, Clarify the Fate of Missing Persons and Support their Families held in September in Brussels, Belgium. Prior to this, an informal meeting between the two State commissions, in the presence of the ICRC, enabled a discussion to take place on ways to re-establish more regular information exchange and periodic working meetings.

Preparations for ante-mortem data collection went ahead, with implementation in partnership with the Armenian Red Cross Society scheduled for 2007. An assessment of the quality of legal, social and mental health services offered by local organizations to families of missing persons was completed with a view to defining the basis of a future referral system. Work continued to identify specialists, in particular archaeologists and anthropologists, who could be involved at a later stage in the process of identification of human remains. A new study with recommendations on the compatibility of Armenian legislation related to missing persons with international treaties and norms was also completed.

Family links

RCMs remained the only means for a number of family members separated by conflict to communicate with each other.

▶ 20 RCMs collected from and 41 distributed to civilians in Armenia

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

One Azerbaijani POW was visited in Yerevan, and one civilian interned in relation to the Nagorny Karabakh conflict was repatriated to Azerbaijan.

The ICRC continued to enjoy unrestricted access to all places of detention under the authority of the Ministry of Defence, the Ministry of Justice and the State police
service. Recommendations made by the ICRC were generally acknowledged and acted upon by the authorities of the places of detention within the limits of available resources.

While focusing on the individual situations of security detainees, women and minors, as well as on vulnerable and foreign detainees in need of assistance, the ICRC continued to address problems in detention places from a broader perspective. Thanks to rehabilitation projects implemented in five detention centres, detainees enjoyed better health and sanitary conditions. Contacts were strengthened with the social and psychological services to enhance their growing capacity to address detainees’ needs, while considerable efforts were made to improve cooperation among State and non-State bodies dealing with detention matters. The Ministry of Justice, together with the ICRC, organized a first-of-its-kind workshop aimed at fostering dialogue between various ministries and NGOs on issues related to health care and social and psychological support in detention places. The ICRC continued to monitor the treatment of detainees, the preservation of contacts with their families and respect for basic judicial guarantees. Cooperation was strengthened with international organizations such as the OSCE and the Council of Europe, as well as with civil society groups active in this domain and organizations providing legal counselling.

- 2,870 detainees visited, 73 of whom monitored individually, including 3 newly registered, during 29 visits to 11 places of detention
- 9 RCMs collected from and 4 distributed to detainees
- 178 family visits organized for 64 people serving life sentences or detained for security reasons

**TB control programme**

TB remained one of the principal challenges faced by the medical services of the Ministry of Justice. The Armenian authorities continued to receive ICRC support to strengthen the managerial capacity of the medical services and to integrate the TB control programme in prisons into the national TB programme. Meetings, workshops and round-tables served to cultivate partnerships between concerned organizations and reinforced the links between detention facilities and nearby civilian TB services. Joint supervision visits to detention centres took place, and a public awareness campaign was organized on World TB Day. The TB Working Group of the Ministry of Justice, established in January 2006, held several meetings and developed its capacity, aiming for a gradual handover of responsibility for TB control activities in the penitentiary sector from the ICRC to the authorities. To ensure uninterrupted standard treatment for detainees infected with TB, places of detention received drugs and laboratory supplies on an ad hoc basis in times of shortage. The penitentiary service started to prepare organizational infrastructure for the treatment of multidrug-resistant forms of TB in the future.

Training of medical and laboratory staff of the penitentiary service took place in collaboration with the national TB programme, facilitating their participation in national and international training programmes, and a medical resource centre was created in the penitentiary hospital. All medical and surgical units in Ministry of Justice detention facilities received safety boxes for sharps disposal, while TB departments received materials for respiratory protection and ultra-violet lights. A memorandum of understanding between the ICRC and the Ministry of Justice on the organization of TB education sessions for detainees and staff in detention centres was signed.

- 4,000 leaflets on TB produced and distributed, 3 television broadcasts on the TB control programme and an ICRC-produced video clip on TB detection and treatment shown on the State television channel on World TB Day
- over 1,800 detainees and prison staff members screened for TB through clinical questioning and chest X-rays during a mass TB detection campaign in May
- 7,080 detainees benefited from rehabilitation work conducted in their places of detention (e.g. cells, showers, toilets, laboratories)
- 3 Ministry of Justice doctors participated in the East European and Central Asian AIDS Conference in Moscow, Russian Federation
- 2 Ministry of Justice doctors participated in the European Network on Drugs and Infection in Prisons Conference in Ljubljana, Slovenia

**WOUNDED AND SICK**

Four surgeons from the Ministry of Defence participated in a war-surgery seminar organized by the ICRC in Saint Petersburg, Russian Federation. Since 2002, 15 Armenian war surgeons have been trained.

**AUTHORITIES**

The authorities of Armenia pursued dialogue with the ICRC concerning accession to and ratification and implementation of IHL treaties, in particular Additional Protocol III. Upon the request of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the ICRC facilitated the translation of Additional Protocol III into Armenian.

The Armenian authorities ratified the Second Protocol to the Hague Convention on Cultural Property and the Optional Protocol to the UN Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.

High-level officials from judicial and academic circles learned the importance of implementing IHL provisions and customary law through participation in a regional round-table. Twenty-three judges participated in a seminar on enforcement of IHL provisions by Armenian national courts.

**ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS**

The Ministry of Defence and the ICRC maintained a high-level dialogue to foster the incorporation of IHL into military doctrine, education and training. The military authorities decided to establish an IHL working group, comprising representatives of different departments of the Ministry of Defence, with a view to reinforcing coordination. In addition, the Ministry of Defence and the ICRC agreed to formalize their cooperation by adopting a joint plan of action for 2007.

IHL was taught at the Military Institute (40 hours) and in the advanced officers’ courses of the Ministry of Defence (30 hours). IHL was also included in the tactical training of all military units of the Armenian armed forces.

With the ICRC’s support, 3,000 copies of the second part of the IHL instructor’s manual were printed in Armenian.

- 1 officer-coach and 3 cadets from the Military Institute participated in the 6th Yaroslav the Wise IHL competition in Odessa, Ukraine
- 1 officer from the Department of Engineering Troops and 2 from the Military Institute participated in 2 Senezh IHL courses in the Russian Federation
12 deputy company and battalion commanders from the Armenian armed forces attended a four-day IHL instructors’ course organized jointly with the Ministry of Defence.

CIVIL SOCIETY

To raise public awareness of and support for IHL, several initiatives targeting the media and academia were taken.

Media

- 16 national media representatives participated in a workshop on IHL and the protection of journalists in armed conflict
- 2 newsletters produced, one on ICRC activities in Armenia and the other on the “Women and War” exhibition mounted in Yerevan

Schools

- basic elements of IHL were included in the new secondary school curriculum
- 128 teachers of military discipline attended 6 seminars conducted in cooperation with the Ministry of Education

Universities

- 4 university teams participated in the 2nd national IHL moot court competition
- 11 law students from 3 universities participated in the 3rd national IHL essay competition
- IHL integrated into the curriculum of the Law Department of the American University of Armenia
- 33 law students from 9 higher-education institutions participated in national IHL events organized jointly with the Armenian Association of International Law
- 6 law students attended ICRC-organized IHL summer schools

RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT

The focus of cooperation between the Armenian Red Cross Society and the ICRC continued to be on enhancing the capacity of the National Society in coordination with the International Federation. One dissemination and two tracing seminars took place, as well as two dissemination coordination meetings for the chairpersons, staff and volunteers of the National Society’s regional and community branches.

The National Society and the ICRC continued to lay the groundwork for an operational cooperation project relating to the collection of ante-mortem data from the families of persons missing as a result of the Nagorny Karabakh conflict.
The ICRC has been working in Azerbaijan since 1992 in relation to the Nagorny Karabakh conflict. It focuses on addressing the issue of missing persons and the problems of detainees held in connection with the conflict, detained for security reasons or otherwise vulnerable, and monitors the situation of communities along the Line of Contact. It supports the authorities in bringing the spread of tuberculosis in prisons under control and ensuring adequate limb-fitting services. The ICRC promotes the implementation of IHL and its integration into the training of the armed and security forces and into university and school curricula. It works to strengthen the capacities of the Red Crescent Society of Azerbaijan.

### CONTEXT

Azerbaijan's geopolitical importance grew with the operation of the US/UK-backed Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan oil pipeline and the rise in international tensions over Iran's nuclear programme. In its foreign relations, the country continued to seek a balance between the interests of the Russian Federation, the United States, the European Union (EU), Turkey, the Islamic Republic of Iran and Israel. President Ilham Aliyev, at a meeting with the US president in Washington in April, declared that Azerbaijan and the United States were “allies in the war on terror” but recalled that his country had signed a non-aggression treaty with the Islamic Republic of Iran. Visits to Baku were made by the Iranian president and defence minister, as well as by the Russian president, prime minister and defence minister.

The United States continued to invest in the Caspian Guard command centre in Baku to ensure the security of the region's energy sources. In parallel, the Russian Federation proposed the establishment of a five-country rapid-reaction naval force, consisting of Azerbaijan, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Kazakhstan, the Russian Federation and Turkmenistan, to combat illicit drugs and arms trafficking. President Aliyev visited Brussels, Belgium, to discuss cooperation with NATO within the Individual Partnership Action Plan, with the aim of strengthening Azerbaijan's integration into Euro-Atlantic structures.

The EU reviewed the mandate of its new Special Representative for the South Caucasus. It confirmed its commitment to assist Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia in implementing political and economic reforms and focused its mandate on conflict resolution, including through promoting the return of refugees and IDPs. In November, the EU and Azerbaijan signed a memorandum on energy cooperation and adopted a five-year plan of action within the European Neighbourhood Policy.

On the domestic front, the rerun of the parliamentary elections in 10 constituencies took place without incident in May, reinforcing the majority of President Aliyev's party.

Given that no elections were scheduled to take place in 2006 in either Azerbaijan or Armenia, the year was portrayed by many as “a unique window of opportunity” to make progress towards a settlement of the 18-year Nagorny Karabakh conflict. Despite three meetings between the presidents of Azerbaijan and Armenia, making a total of eight since 2003, and the intense shuttle diplomacy led by the co-chairmen of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) Minsk Group, there was no significant breakthrough.

On the front line, tensions rose in spring and autumn. Numerous ceasefire violations were reported by both sides, and casualty figures increased mainly among the ranks of soldiers. The conflict was still an important factor influencing domestic politics in both Azerbaijan and Armenia, which continued to employ military rhetoric.

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**EXPENDITURE (IN KCHF)**

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</table>

**IMPLEMENTATION RATE**

Expenditure/yearly budget: 97%

**PERSONNEL**

- 11 expatriates
- 68 national staff (daily workers not included)

**KEY POINTS**

- Through a visit by President Jakob Kellenberger, reaffirmed its intent to continue to provide relevant humanitarian services in the southern Caucasus and stressed the necessity of making progress on the issue of missing persons in the region;
- Approached families of persons missing in relation to the Nagorny Karabakh conflict to open tracing requests, and prepared the ground for ante-mortem data collection;
- Established a permanent office near the front line in Barda;
- Visited detainees to monitor their treatment and living conditions and maintained support to the tuberculosis control programme in prisons; visited and facilitated the repatriation of 5 Armenian POWs or civilians interned in relation to the Nagorny Karabakh conflict and 1 Azerbaijani POW detained in Nagorny Karabakh;
- Pursued its dialogue with the relevant government ministries on issues related to health in detention and physical rehabilitation;
- Contributed to enhancing knowledge and understanding of IHL among the national authorities and armed forces, and organized the 3rd national IHL moot court competition.
In April, ICRC President Jakob Kellenberger visited the southern Caucasus and met the highest authorities in Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia. In Azerbaijan, the main focus of the talks was on the fate of persons missing as a result of the Nagorny Karabakh conflict.

The impact of ongoing tensions between Azerbaijan and Armenia on the population living along the Line of Contact and the international border continued to elicit the ICRC’s attention. Regular field missions enhanced the organization’s already well-developed presence established through programmes conducted in partnership with the Red Crescent Society of Azerbaijan. An ICRC office was reopened in Barda near the front line to ensure increased contacts with local communities, National Society branches and families of missing persons.

The ICRC continued to monitor the conditions of detention and treatment of people deprived of their liberty. It maintained its support to the Ministry of Justice in strengthening its services in the tuberculosis (TB) control programme in prisons. Acting as technical adviser, the organization facilitated the establishment of a national directly observed treatment, short course-plus (DOTS-plus) working group, including civilian TB specialists, to prepare for the implementation of a pilot DOTS-plus project in 2007 and helped mobilize all partners involved in TB control in the country to work within the framework of the newly approved grant from the Global Fund to Fight Aids, Tuberculosis and Malaria.

In addition, the ICRC maintained its support to certain health services, notably in the sphere of physical rehabilitation. In Nagorny Karabakh, in the absence of other international actors, the ICRC continued to provide basic food and non-food assistance to vulnerable individuals and distributed essential drugs to rural health facilities.

Efforts were pursued to familiarize the relevant authorities with IHL issues and to obtain their support for IHL implementation. As part of this process, the ICRC facilitated dialogue between Azerbaijani experts and government officials and foreign and international experts. It continued to support the work of IHL instructors in military educational institutions by providing technical expertise and training. It cooperated with the education authorities and closely followed education reforms with the aim of providing the support needed for the integration of IHL basics into the secondary school curriculum. The ICRC also worked to enhance IHL knowledge among university students and to reinforce relations with the media and other key elements of civil society.

Cooperation with the Red Crescent Society of Azerbaijan was strengthened through operational partnerships in the Safe Play Areas programme and the preparation of ante-mortem data collection from the families of persons missing in connection with the Nagorny Karabakh conflict.

In Nagorny Karabakh, distributions of food and hygiene articles were made to 350 beneficiaries. Of these, 240 were lone pensioners or elderly invalids without any economic support, 50 were disabled breadwinners and 60 were vulnerable members of families of persons unaccounted for in connection with the Nagorny Karabakh conflict.

All of the 66 rural health centres in Nagorny Karabakh were able to provide services thanks to ICRC support in the form of drugs and medical disposables. The Nagorny Karabakh Sanitary Epidemiological Services conducted a campaign against intestinal parasites among schoolchildren in Stepanakert/Khankendi with drugs donated by the ICRC. It was also able to encompass the efforts realized through the implementation of a pilot DOTS-plus project in 2007 and helped mobilize all partners involved in TB control in the country to work within the framework of the newly approved grant from the Global Fund to Fight Aids, Tuberculosis and Malaria.

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stop a limited outbreak of hepatitis A following receipt of antiseptics from the ICRC.

**Missing persons**

The consolidation of the ICRC’s list of persons missing in relation to the Nagorny Karabakh conflict with that of the authorities continued through direct contacts with families. By the end of the year, the ICRC’s list of missing persons from Armenia, Azerbaijan and Nagorny Karabakh totalled 4,176 names.

- new tracing requests registered for 701 people (141 females, 16 minors at the time of disappearance); 10 persons located; 4,176 people (299 females, 95 minors at the time of disappearance) still being sought

The Azerbaijani and Armenian State Commissions on Missing Persons pursued dialogue with the ICRC on the implementation of proposals outlined by the ICRC in its January 2005 memorandum. Both state commissions took part in the European Workshop on National Mechanisms and Legal Measures to Prevent Disappearances, Clarify the Fate of Missing Persons and Support their Families held in September in Brussels, Belgium. Prior to this, an informal meeting between the two state commissions, in the presence of the ICRC, enabled a discussion to take place on ways to re-establish more regular information exchange and periodic working meetings.

Ongoing dialogue with the Azerbaijani authorities and other stakeholders paved the way for dissemination of the ante-mortem data collection process among members of the State commission, the National Society, the international community and local agencies such as the Azerbaijani National Agency for Mine Action in an effort to make the issue of missing persons a prominent feature of their agendas. The start of ante-mortem data collection, planned for June 2006, was postponed owing to difficulties in locating many families of the missing and because preparations for the training of data collectors needed more time. Training of forensic specialists was also postponed because of the difficulty of finding scientists receptive to modern working methods. The ICRC endeavoured to identify senior medical students so that they might be trained as pathologists. The lack of psychological support facilities within Azerbaijani society remained an obstacle. Plans were thus made to expand the training of data collectors to enable them to provide such support initially to families of the missing.

In Nagorny Karabakh, the ICRC encouraged implementation of the proposals outlined in its 2005 memorandum and was informed that a working group of the Commission on Missing Persons would be established in 2007. The capacities of psychologists and existing psychological support facilities were assessed for the possible referral of families of the missing.

**Family links**

The number of refugees/asylum seekers in Azerbaijan requesting travel documents to resettle in third countries decreased sharply in 2006, with only 18 people requiring this service. Indeed, many Afghan refugees, who had made up around half of the beneficiaries in 2004 and 2005, had already left Azerbaijan. Additionally, stricter rules were applied in countries of resettlement, especially regarding Chechen asylum seekers.

RCMs remained the only means for a number of family members separated by conflict to communicate with each other.

- 57 RCMs collected from and 57 distributed to civilians in Nagorny Karabakh

**PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM**

Two Armenian conscripts and three civilians interned in relation to the Nagorny Karabakh conflict received ICRC visits in Baku, re-established contact with their families through RCMs and were later repatriated.

In Nagorny Karabakh, one Azerbaijani POW received an ICRC visit and was later transferred to the Azerbaijani authorities.

Upon completion of a tour of all Azerbaijani prison colonies, the ICRC concluded that there was no specific need for close individual follow-up of detainees once they had reached a colony, and redirected its detention activities to concentrate on the four existing pre-trial facilities, three under the responsibility of the Ministry of Justice and one under the Ministry of National Security. The detainees in Gobustan high-security prison continued to benefit from visits, including some 30 detainees involved in a brief hunger strike in June. The Ministry of Justice received a working paper in relation to this event and discussed the recommendations with the ICRC. The Nakhichevan authorities also received a working paper following the assessment of detention places there.

In Nagorny Karabakh, seven detainees received the visit of their families thanks to ICRC financial support. Furthermore, 22 particularly vulnerable detainees received food and hygiene items. The medical facilities at the prison and pre-trial detention facility in Stepanakert/Khankendi received a small assistance package following ICRC visits there.

- in Azerbaijan, 8,413 detainees visited, 45 of whom monitored individually, including 3 newly registered, during 37 visits to 18 places of detention; 16 RCMs collected from and 18 distributed to detainees
- in Nagorny Karabakh, 176 detainees visited, 8 of whom monitored individually, including 7 newly registered, during 26 visits to 9 places of detention; 26 RCMs collected from and 16 distributed to detainees

**TB control programme**

TB remained a serious problem in Azerbaijani prisons, with a notification rate 55 times higher than in the civilian sector and substantial rates of multi-drug-resistant TB (MDR-TB) among detainees. The ICRC maintained its firm commitment to the DOTS strategy for addressing TB and provided mainly technical support to the Ministry of Justice. Azerbaijan’s grant agreement was signed with the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria for implementation of a five-year TB programme, including a pilot project in prisons to treat 100 MDR-TB cases.

Six nurses from the Red Crescent Society of Azerbaijan received training to ensure that, upon release, prisoners were registered at civilian TB facilities in order to complete their treatment.
The bacteriological laboratory at the prison TB hospital (STIDT) performed 13,007 sputum smear examinations, 856 cultures and 450 drug sensitivity tests. The microscopy laboratory at the central penitentiary hospital performed 2,065 sputum smear examinations. Some rehabilitation work was conducted in the civilian laboratories in Ganja (408 detainees) and Salyan (851 detainees) districts to support the decentralization of TB diagnosis.

In the STIDT (940 detainees), the main shower room and the refectory roof were rehabilitated, old gas pipes were replaced and the mechanical ventilation system in the MDR-TB ward was improved, which eventually contributed to enhanced infection control measures and better living conditions. A medical library and a training centre were established where seminars for medical staff of the penitentiary system were organized to improve skills and expertise.

- 674 detainees began DOTS treatment
- 668 detainees completed TB treatment
- 18,342 detainees screened for TB at least once in 3 pre-trial isolators and 8 prison colonies, with 460 pulmonary TB cases detected
- 13,934 detainees received leaflets and brochures regarding TB treatment and prevention
- 2,199 detainees benefited from habitat projects
- 13 Ministry of Justice health staff participated in 6 international training courses, conferences and study tours

**WOUNDED AND SICK**

The ICRC endeavoured to ensure that amputees and other disabled people had access to quality rehabilitation services. Discussions continued with the new head of the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection on the functioning of the physical rehabilitation system on the basis of the findings of a joint evaluation. The ICRC’s decision to phase out support to physical rehabilitation services in the country by the end of 2007 was communicated to the Azerbaijani authorities.

The physiotherapy services of the Ahmedly Orthopaedic Centre in Baku were assessed, while the centre and its two branches in Ganja and Nakhichevan received support, with the last delivery of raw materials in September 2006. Additionally, 22 detainees received rehabilitation services. The Chechen refugee organization Salam received a wheelchair, as well as crutches for all patients in need.

- 10,949 patients (1,624 women and 3,115 children) received services at the ICRC-supported physical rehabilitation centre
- 190 new patients (21 women and 12 children) fitted with prostheses and 453 (37 women and 382 children) with orthoses
- 1,154 prostheses (121 for women and 37 for children; 112 for mine victims), 1,673 orthoses (127 for women and 1,344 for children; 13 for mine victims), 2,517 crutches and 839 wheelchairs delivered
- 4 technical monitoring missions carried out in Ganja and 2 in Nakhichevan
- 20 staff (technicians, physiotherapists and doctors) attended 3 technical seminars
- 4 surgeons from the Ministries of Defence and Health participated in a war-surgery seminar organized by the ICRC in Saint Petersburg, Russian Federation
AUTHORITIES

The authorities of Azerbaijan pursued their dialogue with the ICRC concerning the incorporation of IHL provisions into national legislation.

Contacts were established with the parliament’s Standing Commission on Human Rights, as well as with the Department for Science and Culture of the Cabinet of Ministers. Further discussions were held with the Constitutional Court, the Supreme Court and the Office of the General Prosecutor. The Ministry of Justice invited the ICRC to participate in a seminar and training session for future judges and to deliver a lecture on the repression of violations of IHL and judicial guarantees. Twenty-five judges and officials of the highest judicial instances participated in a roundtable on IHL held in cooperation with the Constitutional Court.

No progress was made in advancing government plans for the establishment of a national committee for the implementation of IHL. In order to get acquainted with the experiences of national IHL bodies in other countries, a representative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs attended the 3rd European meeting of national IHL committees held in January in Athens, Greece.

A Ministry of Foreign Affairs representative and a Supreme Court judge participated in the Regional Conference on Customary IHL, Content and Purpose held in November in Moscow, Russian Federation. Ministry staff attended a presentation on the ICRC’s study on customary international humanitarian law.

ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

In January, the minister of defence confirmed that he had issued a ministerial order on the implementation and teaching of IHL within the Azerbaijani armed forces. Military officials and the ICRC pursued their dialogue and officers continued to receive training.

Discussions were held on integrating IHL into the training of the troops of the Ministry of Internal Affairs. As a result, the troop commander issued an order in October establishing a working group on IHL teaching.

► 44 officers of the Azerbaijani armed forces and 30 officers of the interior troops participated in 5 five-day IHL courses

► 2 representatives of the Law Department of the Ministry of Defence and the assistant to the commander of the interior troops participated in a Russian-language IHL course in San Remo

► a cadet team and a coaching officer from the Higher Military School participated in the 7th General Skobelev IHL competition in the Russian Federation

► 1 officer from the Training and Education Centre of the Ministry of Defence and 1 teacher from the Higher Military School participated in a Senezh IHL course in the Russian Federation

► 200 instructors, officers and cadets from the Higher Military School and the Higher Navy School attended presentations on IHL and the ICRC

► 15 officers of the Nagorny Karabakh armed forces participated in a five-day IHL course in Stepanakert/Khankendi

CIVIL SOCIETY

To raise public awareness of and support for IHL, several initiatives targeting the media and academia were taken.

Media

► 9 journalists participated in a mine-action workshop

► 15 national media representatives participated in a workshop on IHL and the protection of journalists in armed conflict

► 2 newsletters produced, one on ICRC activities in Azerbaijan and Nagorny Karabakh and one on the “Women and War” exhibition mounted in Baku

Schools

► basic elements of IHL incorporated into the training curriculum of the Teachers’ Institute

► 423 teachers from 261 secondary schools trained in humanitarian principles and basic IHL

► 226 teachers from Stepanakert/Khankendi and Nagorny Karabakh attended 17 seminars conducted by 7 IHL teacher-trainers

► 4 secondary schools in Stepanakert/Khankendi took part in an IHL competition based on ICRC literature

Universities

► 10 teams of 30 law students participated in the 3rd national IHL moot court competition

► a team from Baku State University sponsored to participate in the Jean Pictet moot court competition in Serbia and Montenegro

► 1 university professor participated in the 6th Martens Readings Conference in Saint Petersburg, Russian Federation

► 20 law students attended ICRC-organized IHL summer schools

► IHL integrated into the training curriculum of the Nursing College in Nagorny Karabakh

► 30 law students attended an IHL seminar in Stepanakert/Khankendi

RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT

The Red Crescent Society of Azerbaijan continued to receive ICRC support for its tracing and dissemination activities, and efforts were made to establish a more comprehensive long-term partnership.

Cooperation in capacity building for mine action was strengthened. In parallel with the operational partnership to implement the Safe Play Areas programme, training took place to develop targeted messages of advice through analysing mine accident data.

Preparations were made for the training of National Society volunteers in ante-mortem data collection from the families of persons missing as a result of the Nagorny Karabakh conflict.
The ICRC has been present in Bosnia and Herzegovina since 1992, opening a delegation in the country in 1995. The organization strives to clarify the fate of missing persons and to address the needs of their families. It advocates a comprehensive approach to the issue and supports related initiatives in line with the outcome of the ICRC’s 2003 International Conference on the Missing. It also contributes to strengthening the National Society to enable it to respond to immediate needs and to assume longer-term responsibilities in society. The ICRC works with the authorities and civil society to promote IHL.

**CONTEXT**

Over a decade after the signing of the Dayton Peace Agreement, Bosnia and Herzegovina continued to make slow but visible progress towards stability. The opening rounds of negotiations on the Stabilization and Association Agreement with the European Union (EU) enabled the new head of the Office of the High Representative to initiate the transfer of authority from the international community to domestic institutions. Defence reform entered the final stages, and the armed forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina merged and started operating under a single Ministry of Defence. Components of the armed forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina served in a peace-support mission in Iraq. In December, Bosnia and Herzegovina was invited to join NATO’s Partnership for Peace. This step towards Euro-Atlantic integration brought additional responsibilities for the authorities, including renewed cooperation with the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY).

Presidential and parliamentary elections took place in October. These were the first elections since Dayton to be fully administered by the authorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) declared that the elections represented a step forward in consolidating democracy and the rule of law. However, progress towards Euro-Atlantic integration was set back by delays in some crucial reform processes. Parliament failed to adopt the constitutional amendments that would have trimmed cumbersome governance and management bodies, which made it impossible for the elections to be conducted in full compliance with the requirements of the European Convention on Human Rights. The reform of police structures was held up because of some resistance to the creation of inter-entity police regions and to the transfer of responsibility to State level, EU requirements that had previously been agreed. Republika Srpska officials requested the creation of a commission to investigate war crimes and disappearances, similar to the Srebrenica Commission.

The ICTY announced that trials should conclude by the end of 2008, with the objective of transferring cases involving mid- and lower-level indictees to the domestic jurisdictions of the territories of the former Yugoslavia. The War Crimes Chamber of the State Court of Bosnia and Herzegovina, established in 2005 to deal with grave breaches of IHL, was a vital component of the ICTY’s strategy. Seven war-crimes suspects were transferred from the ICTY to be tried before the Chamber.

**EXPENDITURE (IN KCHF)**

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**IMPLEMENTATION RATE**

Expenditure/yearly budget: 95%

**PERSONNEL**

- 4 expatriates
- 44 national staff (daily workers not included)

**KEY POINTS**

- provided the authorities with technical and legal assistance in drafting the bylaws required to implement the Law on Missing Persons and with training in running the Missing Persons Institute;
- together with the International Commission on Missing Persons, organized meetings between key members of the Missing Persons Institute, the Ministry for Human Rights and Refugees and authorities from Croatia and Serbia, with a view to improving regional cooperation in tracing missing persons;
- visited people under investigation or sentenced for war crimes in places of detention under the jurisdiction of the Ministries of Justice at State and entity levels;
- continued to support the National Society in consolidating its management and governance and strengthening its capacities, particularly in the restoration of family links and mine-risk education;
- promoted its “Compatibility Study on IHL for Bosnia and Herzegovina” and encouraged governmental and judicial bodies, academic circles and the National Society to work towards establishing a national IHL committee;
- participated in IHL training for members of the judiciary, as well as for military officers of the region, and worked with all Ministries of Education to integrate the Exploring Humanitarian Law programme into secondary school curricula.
The issue of missing persons remained a tragic legacy of the conflict in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The main concern of the families was to know what had happened to their missing relatives and, if found to be dead, to recover their remains and to bury and mourn them in dignity. The ICRC therefore worked closely with all the parties concerned to determine the fate of persons unaccounted for. It continued to support efforts to set up an effective and sustainable Missing Persons Institute at the State level to serve as a focal point for missing persons and their families. The complex process of transferring responsibilities from the entity-level tracing commissions to the State level, as well as the appointment of the Institute’s bodies, took longer than expected and led to the postponement of the start of the Institute’s work.

As the domestic prosecution of war-crimes suspects gained momentum, the ICRC continued to participate in IHL training for legal professionals at the State War Crimes Chamber and entity courts. It obtained unrestricted access to people under investigation or sentenced for war crimes or in the context of the “war on terror”, at State and entity levels.

The ICRC continued to support the National Society in its efforts to become unified, functional and self-sustained. The Assembly of the Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina decided to implement its revised statutes from January 2007. The ICRC also provided technical, financial and training support in the fields of tracing, first aid, disaster preparedness and dissemination.

The ICRC’s “Compatibility Study on IHL for Bosnia and Herzegovina” facilitated dialogue among relevant stakeholders on the importance of IHL and led to initial discussions on the establishment of a national IHL committee.

The ICRC maintained a constructive dialogue with senior officers and officials of the armed forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as with the EU Force (EUFOR) and NATO, focusing on the ongoing defence reform and IHL. It also participated in training activities for the armed forces, including those organized by the Peace Support Operations Training Centre (PSOTC).

With continued ICRC support, the education authorities in some parts of the country started to formally integrate the Exploring Humanitarian Law programme into secondary school curricula. The ICRC concentrated on training teachers and trainers, particularly in areas where the authorities demonstrated ownership of the programme.

Thousands of people who had disappeared during the conflict and whose relatives had approached the ICRC for assistance in locating them remained missing. While the ICRC-chaired session of the Working Group on Persons Unaccounted For was postponed until 2007 owing to the delay in establishing the Missing Persons Institute, the ICRC continued to collect information on missing persons and relay it to the authorities, reminding them of the urgency of transmitting to the Working Group all relevant information on the missing.

By the end of 2006, out of a total of 22,340 tracing requests regarding missing persons submitted since 1996, 8,243 had been resolved, mostly through the exhumation and identification process.

New tracing requests registered for 54 people (12 women)

1,241 cases resolved, including 4 people located alive and 1,217 exhumed bodies identified and handed over to their families

14,069 cases (1,446 females, 758 minors at the time of disappearance) still being processed

The ICRC continued to update and publish on its website the list of persons reported missing (15,275 names published in 2006, including cases closed). In February, it promoted and distributed the seventh edition of its "Book of Missing Persons on the Territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina”. The Federal Commission on Missing Persons and the Office for Tracing Detained and Missing Persons in the Republika Srpska provided regular updates on exhumations and identifications.

The identification process of human remains continued to be the main source of information on the fate of missing persons. Matching ante-mortem to post-mortem data, together with DNA analysis, remained an essential task. In all, 61 ante-mortem questionnaires were collected by the Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina and 16 other National Societies, bringing the total number of identities in the ante/post-mortem database to 15,433, of which 7,146 related to the fall of Srebrenica and 8,287 were linked to other events. Forensic experts had regular access to the ante-mortem data.

While the ICRC continued to manage the ante-mortem database pending its transfer to the Missing Persons Institute, it conducted training for four future staff members of the Institute in the management and use of the database. Meetings took place with the Institute’s board of directors, the International Commission on Missing Persons (ICMP) and forensic experts to discuss technical issues pertaining to the transfer of the database to the Institute.

With ICRC support, the working group on the implementation of the Law on Missing Persons, established by the Ministry for Human Rights and Refugees of Bosnia and Herzegovina, drafted bylaws relating to
various aspects of the issue, from the status of the families to the functioning of the Missing Persons Institute. Bylaws adopted by the Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Ministry for Human Rights and Refugees featured rules on marking the places of burial and exhumation of missing persons, provisional instructions on the issue of certificates of disappearance, and the establishment of a support fund for the families of missing persons.

The Ministry for Human Rights and Refugees, in close coordination with the ICMP and the ICRC, organized four meetings with representatives of families of the missing to hear questions and proposals from the families on the exercise of their rights. Their input contributed to the creation of a guide to the Law on Missing Persons that was distributed to the authorities at all levels and to the families of the missing.

Representatives of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Republic of Croatia and the Republic of Serbia attended two regional cooperation meetings organized and chaired by the ICRC and the ICMP on the issue of missing persons. States in the region renewed their commitment to develop further coordination and improve the exchange of information, the cross-border exhumation process and the repatriation of human remains.

The ICRC regularly met representatives of the associations of families of missing persons. The associations also received ad hoc financial and technical support from the ICRC and the Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and families of the missing had their transport costs covered to visit mass-grave or exhumation sites.

Psychological support and team-building workshops were organized for employees of the two entity tracing commissions and future staff members of the Missing Persons Institute. These workshops aimed to help the participants, who had been involved in exhumation and identification processes for several years, to cope with the stress caused by the difficult nature of their work, to alleviate burn-out symptoms and to contribute to building the capacity of the Institute. In addition, members of families of missing persons, including children, continued to receive support through local psychologists to cope with uncertainty and its psychological effects. In December, members of the Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Union of Bosniak Family Associations participated in workshops on support to families of missing persons during the identification process.

- 189 members of families of missing persons received psychological support through 11 projects.
- 30 women, members of families of missing persons, attended educational workshops.
- 20 National Society staff members and 20 members of the Union of Bosniak Family Associations attended workshops on support to families of missing persons.
- 31 staff members of entity tracing commissions attended 3 psychological-support and team-building workshops.

### PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

The ICRC maintained regular contact with the relevant authorities and, in accordance with its mandate, continued to have access to places of detention under the jurisdiction of the Ministries of Justice at State and entity level. Detention visits focused on persons under investigation or sentenced for war-crimes offences or within the context of the “war on terror”. Following visits, confidential reports were submitted to the relevant authorities.

- 78 detainees visited and monitored individually, including 43 newly registered, during 16 visits to 9 places of detention.

### AUTHORITIES

The ICRC maintained a network of contacts with representatives of the international community, including the Office of the High Representative, to mobilize support for the organization’s activities and to ensure that matters of ICRC concern were raised in national and international fora. The international community was also a valuable partner for the ICRC in promoting IHL and its implementation and in maintaining the momentum on the missing persons issue.

The ICRC completed the “Compatibility Study on IHL for Bosnia and Herzegovina”, which reflected the legislative and institutional changes of the last three years. Representatives of executive, legislative and judicial authorities, academic circles and the National Society discussed the document at a round-table organized by the ICRC in April. A decision to establish a national IHL committee was later drafted by the relevant State ministries and submitted to all stakeholders for consideration.

The Parliament of Bosnia and Herzegovina adopted a law implementing the Chemical Weapons Convention, and the criminal code was amended accordingly.

- 150 defence lawyers representing or potentially representing people accused of war crimes before the State War Crimes Chamber and entity courts attended IHL training courses in Sarajevo and Banja Luka.
- 60 judges and prosecutors involved in war-crimes trials attended IHL sessions.
- 30 interns from the State War Crimes Chamber and the State Prosecutor’s Office attended an IHL seminar.
- Members of the Parliament of Bosnia and Herzegovina attended a briefing on the current status of IHL implementation and the rule of law co-organized by the ICRC and the OSCE.

### ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

Senior representatives of domestic and international armed forces present in Bosnia and Herzegovina maintained contact with the ICRC on issues pertaining to IHL. The internationally run PSOTC in Sarajevo integrated IHL into its curriculum and organized courses with ICRC participation. At the quarterly EUFOR legal advisers’ conferences, representatives of the Ministries of Defence and armed forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina and of EU countries learned about the ICRC and IHL.

- 65 officers from Bosnia and Herzegovina and other European countries attended 2 three-day IHL modules at the PSOTC.
- 23 participants in a regional seminar for military observers from the Balkan countries attended an IHL presentation at the PSOTC.
- 28 officers from the countries of the region interacted with the ICRC and the National Society during the “Blue Beret” exercise organized by the PSOTC, which involved key international role players (ICTY, IOM, OSCE, UNHCR).

### CIVIL SOCIETY

**Media**

- the Law on Missing Persons and a guide to it promoted through 3 press releases issued jointly with the Ministry for Human Rights and Refugees and the ICMP.
the ICRC’s psychological-support programme and its impact on families of the missing and their children presented in a live television broadcast

Schools
- 14 coordinators of the Exploring Humanitarian Law programme, representing all Ministries of Education and 8 pedagogical institutes, selected by the authorities
- Exploring Humanitarian Law integrated into the secondary school curriculum in Zenica Canton
- 8 teacher-trainers and 214 teachers trained in Exploring Humanitarian Law and 2,100 pupils taught basic IHL principles through the programme

Universities
- IHL integrated into the curricula of the Sarajevo and Mostar (Croat and Bosniak) law faculties
- 14 students attended a regional conference on IHL in Belgrade, Serbia
- 300 books and leaflets distributed to students and lecturers of all 4 law faculties in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and 1 standard IHL library given to the newly established law faculty in Tuzla

RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT

The Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina continued to receive ICRC support in its institutional and operational development in a coordinated approach with the International Federation.

Two landmark documents, namely the strategic plan for 2006–2010 and the revised statutes, paved the way for substantial structural and operational development of the National Society.

- 10 coordinators at National Society headquarters and entity level received technical and financial support in tracing, mine-risk education, conflict preparedness and dissemination
- 22 disseminators trained in promotion of the basic rules of IHL and the Fundamental Principles
- 6 tracing workshops held by the newly formed 13-member core team, and basic training provided to all 142 branches
- 30 Red Cross volunteers trained and certified by the Bosnia and Herzegovina Mine Action Centre to work in mine-affected communities, and 19 staff trained in effective presentation techniques in mine-risk education
The ICRC has been present in Georgia since 1992. It visits detainees throughout Georgia, including Abkhazia and South Ossetia, and supports the authorities in bringing tuberculosis in prisons under control. It contributes to efforts to provide answers to families of missing persons and protects and assists displaced people and other vulnerable groups in conflict-affected regions. The ICRC also promotes the integration of IHL into the training of the armed and security forces and into university and school curricula. In cooperation with Movement partners, the ICRC helps to strengthen the capacities of the National Society.

**KEY POINTS**

- Through a visit by President Jakob Kellenberger, reaffirmed its intent to continue to provide relevant humanitarian services in the southern Caucasus and stressed the necessity of making progress on the issue of missing persons in the region;
- Maintained a permanent presence in Abkhazia and South Ossetia and re-established a more regular presence in villages in the conflict zones to address the protection and assistance needs of the population;
- Visited detainees held in Georgia proper, Abkhazia and South Ossetia and contributed to improving conditions of detention, including discussing the problem of overcrowding with the Georgian authorities and extending the tuberculosis control programme for detainees to all prisons in Georgia proper;
- Distributed food and essential household items to destitute people in Abkhazia and western Georgia and gave grants to vulnerable households to help reduce their dependency on external aid;
- Repaired and upgraded collective centres for IDPs and, with the authorities, created a database to consolidate information on all IDP collective centres throughout Georgia;
- Intensified lobbying and advocacy for the long-term inclusion of IHL provisions in the different reform processes related to prisons (notably health), the national strategy on IDPs, physical rehabilitation services, education and social welfare.

**CONTEXT**

Georgia’s relations with the Russian Federation deteriorated in 2006 over energy supplies, a spy scandal, Georgia’s ambiguity towards membership of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) and its objection to Russian membership of the World Trade Organization. Georgia meanwhile strengthened its relationship with NATO through an Intensified Dialogue on Membership Aspirations and with the European Union through an agreed action plan within the European Neighbourhood Policy. The negotiations over the future of Kosovo and statements from the Russian Federation on the importance of self-determination over territorial integrity further complicated relations between Georgia and the Russian Federation. The tensions reached their peak in autumn with a spy scandal, following which the Russian Federation imposed a transport and postal embargo in addition to the existing ban on Georgian wine and mineral water. In December, the Russian Duma recommended that the international community take into account the wishes for independence of Abkhazia and South Ossetia. The negotiating processes for the settlement of both conflicts were suspended in the middle of the year.

Relations with Abkhazia were damaged in July following the attempted secession by the local representative of the Georgian authorities of the Upper Kodori Valley, a territory which had remained officially controlled by Tbilisi. The region was brought back under the control of the Georgian authorities, but the action and the intention to install a government-in-exile, along with what was perceived in Abkhazia as Georgia’s militarization of the region, led to a suspension of contacts between the sides. Given the rising tension, UN Security Council resolution 1716 in October extended the mandate of the UN Observer Mission in Georgia (UNOMIG) for six months and called on the parties to renew dialogue and comply with previous agreements regarding non-violence and confidence building. Security improved in Abkhazia towards the end of the year, with less criminality in the region of Gali and successful UN monitoring of the Kodori Valley.

The de facto authorities of South Ossetia indicated a wish to join North Ossetia as part of the Russian Federation. They held presidential elections and a referendum on independence in November. A South Ossetian opposition movement with an agenda for union with Georgia was formed in villages with predominantly Georgian populations, which held its own presidential elections on the same day. The leading candidates in both elections won overwhelming majorities, but there was no international recognition of either vote, making the landscape for negotiations in South Ossetia ever more complex, with rival authorities for South Ossetia, one in the Georgian village of Kurta and the other in the main town Tskhinvali. The de facto authorities in Tskhinvali demanded an agreement to end hostilities in order to restart negotiations, while the Georgian government called for a change in the negotiating format. Tensions persisted in South Ossetia, with significant numbers of armed incidents and people wounded.
Meanwhile, economic and social reform in Georgia proper progressed, with continuing extensive international support. However, the lack of change perceived by most of the impoverished population, high unemployment, rising energy prices and gas cuts during a particularly harsh winter resulted in demonstrations in various parts of the country. Georgia tried to deal with the sharp rise in the price of Russian gas by finding alternative supplies from Azerbaijan and Turkey.

**ICRC ACTION**

The ICRC continued to provide assistance and protection to the population in the conflict zones of Abkhazia and South Ossetia through a permanent presence in Sukhumi, Gali, Zugdidi and Tkhinvali. In light of its observations of the effects of the conflict on the civilian population, the organization reminded the authorities of their obligations under IHL. With the improved security in 2006, the ICRC was able to reach all the communities in Gali for the first time in over five years and extended its presence in South Ossetia.

Regular ICRC visits to detainees continued. Severe overcrowding in Georgia’s prisons, a prison riot in March and infrastructural problems in Abkhazia and South Ossetia gave rise to serious concern. Representations, including written reports, with the ICRC’s findings and recommendations were made to the authorities. Tuberculosis (TB) screening and treatment in Georgia’s prisons and the gradual handover of the programme to the authorities went ahead. Experience gained in the TB control programme was used to support the authorities in the development of general health care in penitentiary institutions. Work was pursued to upgrade prison buildings and water supply systems.

Over 2,100 people remained missing in connection with the different conflicts in Georgia. Progress in determining their fate and in providing support to the families was slow. Position papers outlining the ICRC’s humanitarian concerns in relation to this issue were submitted to the highest authorities in Tbilisi and Sukhumi.

The ICRC reviewed its assistance activities, given the improved situation of the most vulnerable sectors of the population. It ended food distributions in western Georgia after four years of support to IDPs and residents. Likewise, the ICRC food canteens, which had served the destitute in Abkhazia for the last 14 years, closed. The organization gave grants to vulnerable households to foster income-generating activities. The handover of responsibility for support to the destitute to the authorities allowed the ICRC to close its office in Kutaisi and reduce staff in western Georgia by 60%.

The ICRC, working with the authorities, completed a database of all IDP collective centres to help in determining priorities. Work on the rehabilitation of dilapidated centres continued. The organization maintained support to physical rehabilitation services in Tbilisi and Gagra. It pursued development of IHL training for the armed forces and continued to work for the inclusion of IHL teaching in secondary schools and universities.

The ICRC supported the Red Cross Society of Georgia in developing its capacities in the areas of dissemination and institutional and statutory reform.

**CIVILIANS**

**Missing persons**

More than 12 years on, some 2,000 people remained unaccounted for in relation to the conflict in Abkhazia and about 120 in relation to the conflict in South Ossetia.

The ICRC submitted a position paper to the Georgian and de facto Abkhaz presidents highlighting six priority areas to be worked on to resolve cases of missing persons. Authorities from both sides expressed a renewed interest in finding solutions. Scant progress in ascertaining the fate of the missing was offset by the reappointment of a Commission on Missing Persons in Georgia, the drafting of new statutes for the commission in Abkhazia and working sessions with both commissions.

The ICRC facilitated two missions to Georgia, including Abkhazia, of the special rapporteur of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe on missing persons in Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia, whose report was to be issued in January 2007.

Eight Abkhaz experts participated in a first ICRC workshop on forensic techniques in Sukhumi. The family association Mothers of Abkhazia signed an agreement to receive support to undertake publication of a book on persons missing in Abkhazia.

**Family links**

The number of RCMs exchanged between Georgia and Abkhazia decreased by 4.5% compared with the previous year. With an improved but expensive telephone service between Georgia and Abkhazia, the destitute to the authorities allowed the ICRC to keep in touch with family members living on the other side of the ceasefire line.
3,145 RCMs (including 1,397 in Abkhazia) collected and 3,199 (including 1,596 in Abkhazia) distributed

5 vulnerable people reunited with their families in Abkhazia

new tracing requests registered for 29 people (9 females, 2 minors at the time of disappearance); 15 people located; 3 people still being sought

8 people issued ICRC travel documents

54 official documents relayed between family members across front lines and borders

Economic security and basic needs

Given improved socio-economic conditions in Abkhazia, assistance programmes were revised, and local authorities and organizations took on more responsibility for supporting vulnerable groups. The programme of quarterly distributions of food rations and essential household items was completed as planned at the end of February. The canteen (soup kitchen) programme, whose beneficiaries decreased by 35% over the year, ceased at the end of December.

Responsibility for implementing the home assistance programme was handed over fully to the Red Cross in Abkhazia. In line with a memorandum of understanding signed between the de facto authorities of Abkhazia and the Red Cross in Abkhazia, long-standing ICRC assistance programmes were scheduled to close by the end of 2007.

The socio-economic conditions of the Mingrelian (Georgian) population in the volatile region of Gali were assessed. A total of 250 economic support projects were identified for implementation in 2007.

In western Georgia, the ICRC carried out additional distributions of food and essential household items to prevent deterioration in the economic conditions of a destitute population. By the end of the year, 85% of the population had been assessed by the new social welfare system, while 72% were already receiving monthly cash allowances.

Through agriculture, trade and craft grants, as well as technical coaching, vulnerable individuals benefited from an increase in their productive capacity and their regular incomes. A total of 1,583 income-generating activities were set up, ranging from vegetable production and animal husbandry to mechanical workshops.

Twenty-four collective centres housing 3,267 IDPs were rehabilitated in close collaboration with the Georgian Ministry of Refugees and Accommodation and the de facto South Ossetian Ministry of Special Affairs. Twenty-two centres benefited from the training of maintenance teams and the distribution of toolboxes. Following assessment and registration of the more than 1,200 collective centres in western and eastern Georgia, a comprehensive database containing all relevant information was set up.

Summary of assistance in Abkhazia and western Georgia

- 15,485 people (10,101 households) received food rations and 16,507 people (11,011 households) received essential household items
- 2,778 people (731 households) received income-generating support
- 2,600 IDPs benefited from shelter and habitat projects and 200 people from water and sanitation projects

**People Deprived of Their Freedom**

The ICRC pursued its visits to detainees in Georgia proper, Abkhazia and South Ossetia, monitoring individually people arrested for security reasons. Most arrests were linked to the tensions between Georgia and the Russian Federation, as well as to the elections that took place in South Ossetia and Georgia.

In Georgia proper, although the authorities opened two new prisons and decided to institute legal reforms and increase the budget of the penitentiary system, conditions of detention worsened because of overcrowding. The government received international support for the prison reform process. Five detention facilities were assessed by the ICRC and reports subsequently submitted to the authorities. Two international experts in prison reform undertook a week-long mission, sponsored by the ICRC, to advise the Georgian Ministries of Justice and of Health, Labour and Social Affairs on the ongoing reform of detainee health care. Conducting a comprehensive health needs assessment in prison was one of the key recommendations of their report, and the ICRC assisted the Georgian government in holding a seminar to prepare the assessment.

In several prisons, the ICRC conducted rehabilitation work on the medical wards, allowing for better care of sick detainees and healthier working conditions for the prison medical staff. In other prisons, medical equipment or supplies were provided. Work on water supply systems and sanitary installations was also performed.

**TB control programme**

Aiming to bring the TB epidemic in the penitentiary system under control, the Georgian government continued to implement a directly observed treatment, short course (DOTS) strategy for detainees with active TB. Coordination mechanisms between the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Health, Labour and Social Affairs still needed to be strengthened to increase the likelihood of detainees completing their treatment after release.

The Ministry of Justice conducted mass TB screening in nine detention facilities with the technical support of the ICRC and the national TB programme, including for the first time the new Kutaisi prison and Rustavi-6 prison. Plans were made to include the newly reopened Rustavi-2 prison in the TB control programme, thus ensuring that the entire detainees population in Georgia had full access to proper diagnosis and treatment of TB.

- 14,747 detainees visited, 59 (2 females) of them monitored individually, including 42 (2 females) newly registered, during 77 visits to 19 places of detention; these figures include 111 detainees visited (1 monitored individually) in South Ossetia during 9 visits to 2 places of detention; 469 RCMs collected from and 477 distributed to detainees
- 439 detainees visited in Abkhazia, 9 of them monitored individually, including 7 newly registered, during 20 visits to 5 places of detention; 27 RCMs collected from and 36 distributed to detainees
- 2 detention certificates issued for former detainees or their families
- 1,050 detainees in 4 places of detention benefited from rehabilitation work in their places of detention, mainly in the medical wards; an additional 370 detainees in 1 place of detention will benefit from an ongoing project
- 1,050 detainees in 4 places of detention benefited from rehabilitation work in their places of detention, mainly in the medical wards; an additional 370 detainees in 1 place of detention will benefit from an ongoing project
- 15,983 detainees screened for TB in 14 detention facilities
- 600 detainees commenced DOTS treatment
- 368 detainees completed treatment
- 422 detainees still under treatment
WOUNDED AND SICK

The hospitals in Agudzera, Sukhumi and Tkvarcheli received essential analgesics and suture material from the ICRC. The assistance ended in December as planned.

- 535 surgical operations performed at ICRC-supported hospitals

Rehabilitation work was implemented at Tskhinvali hospital with ICRC support. Over 2,600 metres of the sewage, water and heating pipe system were installed and a workshop with tools and equipment for the maintenance team was set up. The generator house, heating room and laundry facilities were rehabilitated and faulty equipment was replaced.

Physical rehabilitation

According to official estimates, there were 4,000 amputees in Georgia. There were around 600 in Abkhazia, most of whom were weapon-wounded. Two government physical rehabilitation centres, namely the main centre in Tbilisi and the centre in Gagra, continued to receive ICRC assistance. With the aim of promoting the development of a comprehensive physical rehabilitation policy, a round-table took place under ICRC auspices for the authorities, associations for the disabled, service providers and international organizations.

The Georgian Foundation for Prosthetic Orthopaedic Rehabilitation (GEFPO) in Tbilisi moved further towards autonomy but still had 60% of its costs reimbursed by the ICRC. With ICRC support, GEFPO continued to apply to different potential donors. Some income-generating activities were developed.

In Abkhazia, a timetable was discussed for the gradual takeover by local health authorities of responsibility for the Gagra Orthopaedic Centre. Renovations were undertaken in Gali house, heating room and laundry facilities were rehabilitated and faulty equipment was replaced.

In Abkhazia, a timetable was discussed for the gradual takeover by local health authorities of responsibility for the Gagra Orthopaedic Centre. Renovations were undertaken in Gali hospital for the transfer of the repair workshop from the ICRC office. A Gagra technician attended an ICRC technical seminar on hip prostheses in the Russian Federation.

A cooperation agreement with the health authorities in South Ossetia and a contract with the Vladikavkaz Orthopaedic Centre were signed regarding ICRC financing of the fitting of Ossetian patients with prosthetic/orthotic appliances.

- 1,143 patients (184 women and 256 children) received services at the ICRC-supported physical rehabilitation centre

125 new patients (20 women and 2 children) fitted with prostheses and 225 (35 women and 157 children) with orthoses

- 380 prostheses (44 for women and 15 for children; 79 for mine victims) and 517 orthoses (58 for women and 408 for children), 764 crutches and 24 wheelchairs delivered

AUTHORITIES

The Georgian authorities and the ICRC remained in close contact regarding the country’s accession to IHL treaties and their incorporation into domestic law. Georgia ratified Additional Protocol III in December.

A representative of the International Law Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the head of the International Legal Cooperation Department of the Ministry of Justice participated in the 3rd European meeting of national IHL committees held in January in Athens, Greece. A study on the compatibility of national legislation on missing persons with IHL was completed by a Georgian expert.

- 32 municipality staff members from western Georgia, 20 members of the Abkhaz parliament and 11 representatives of NGOs and the de facto authorities of South Ossetia attended training and awareness sessions on IHL and the work and mandate of the ICRC

ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

The Georgian Ministry of Defence continued to work with the support of the ICRC on the integration of IHL into armed forces training. The ministry invited the ICRC twice to international conferences focusing on military reform and strategy issues. An IHL training needs assessment for the police and security forces was carried out in May.

Armed personnel in Abkhazia and South Ossetia and the ICRC met to discuss further cooperation in the field of IHL dissemination.

- 24 staff members of a new sub-unit at the Ministry of Defence Training Centre tasked to organize the training of Georgian units deployed on international peacekeeping missions attended a five-day training course to become IHL instructors

15 senior officers of the Ministry of Defence and the armed forces of Georgia participated in an IHL seminar

Information sessions on the ICRC’s mandate and activities were held for:

- 19 cadets of the Military Naval Academy of the Georgian Ministry of Defence and 6 representatives of police forces in western Georgia;
- 44 officers of the Georgian Border Police in Batumi;
- 26 officers of the Abkhaz police;
- 60 officers of the Abkhaz border troops detachment in Sukhumi;
- 78 officers and 39 servicemen of the CIS peacekeeping forces deployed in Abkhazia;
- 35 military observers at the UNOMIG Gali office;
- 54 observers of the Georgian, Russian and North Ossetian Joint Peacekeeping Force battalions deployed in the Georgian-South Ossetian conflict zone.

CIVIL SOCIETY

To raise public awareness of and support for IHL, a number of initiatives targeting the media and academia were carried out.

Media

- 2 video clips and several radio broadcasts made on ICRC assistance programmes
- 2 media round-tables organized on ICRC activities in the Georgian-South Ossetian conflict zone and in Abkhazia

Schools

- some 144,000 pupils, including 6,000 in Abkhazia, used ICRC-sponsored textbooks on IHL
- 560 teachers trained in IHL in Tbilisi and 17 regions of Georgia
- 9 teachers from 5 regions of Georgia trained as IHL teacher-trainers
- a CD-ROM on IHL produced for teachers
- a school competition held on the basics of IHL

Universities

- a team of Georgian students sponsored to participate in the Jean Pictet moot court competition in Serbia and Montenegro
- 54 students from Zugdidi University and Batumi Maritime Academy attended presentations on the ICRC’s mandate and activities
50 students from Sukhumi University took part in a two-day workshop on IHL.

1 IHL lecturer from Sukhumi University participated in an IHL round-table in Moscow, Russian Federation.

**RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT**

The ICRC and the International Federation jointly supported the Red Cross Society of Georgia’s institutional and statutory reforms through financing and participating in an organizational capacity evaluation (headquarters and branch capacity) and providing financial support for an external financial audit. The National Society’s statutory reform process was partially completed. Documents such as those defining internal rules and procedures were drafted.

The objectives, plan of action and budget of the dissemination programme were set by the National Society in consultation with the ICRC and the International Federation. Subsequently, 1,743 people attended 131 dissemination sessions for external audiences and 540 National Society staff and volunteers attended 43 sessions on IHL and the Movement. The National Society continued to receive training and advice for capacity-building and financial support from the ICRC.
The ICRC has been working in the countries of the region since 1991. The regional delegation in Belgrade, together with the ICRC’s independent mission in Pristina, works to assist the families of missing persons throughout Serbia, including Kosovo, and Montenegro in their efforts to shed light on the fate of their relatives. It also monitors the situation of minority communities, IDPs and returnees facing security problems, and lobbies the authorities and other international organizations in the country to support them. Throughout the region, the ICRC visits detainees, promotes the implementation of IHL and supports the development of the National Societies.

**CONTEXT**

The two major developments in the region in 2006 were the start in January of the Kosovo status talks and the May referendum by which Montenegro gained independence from the State union with Serbia. Montenegro went on to pursue its goal of accession to the European Union (EU). Brussels decided to suspend indefinitely the Stabilization and Association Agreement talks with Serbia because of Belgrade’s continued failure to cooperate fully with the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia.

In November, Serbia approved a new constitution by a narrow margin, imposing the need for fresh elections at all levels. In December, Serbia (along with Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro) was admitted to NATO’s Partnership for Peace.

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Efforts by the UN special envoy to bring Belgrade and Pristina closer on the issue of Kosovo’s final status made little headway. The UN postponed the resolution of Kosovo’s status until after the 21 January 2007 elections in Serbia, prompting a protest against the UN Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) and the government in Pristina in November.

The overall security situation in Kosovo was stable but fragile, with interethnic tensions ever present. Security incidents involving minorities, especially Kosovo Serbs, persisted. The number of minority returns to Kosovo remained low.

In Albania and the FYR Macedonia, the situation remained generally stable and without security incidents. As signatories to the Adriatic Charter, both countries pursued efforts to meet the requirements for EU and NATO integration.
ICRC ACTION

The ICRC pursued its activities to resolve issues related to missing persons. While continuing to chair the Working Group on Missing Persons in Kosovo, it stepped up dialogue with both the national and international authorities in an effort to encourage them to honour their commitments and provide the families of missing persons with answers regarding the fate of their relatives. In Belgrade and Pristina, the ICRC maintained its assistance to family associations in building their capacities and lobbying for recognition of their legal and administrative rights.

The ICRC continued to visit people held in detention in the FYR Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia (including Kosovo), focusing on those detained on war-crime charges, for politically or ethnically motivated offences or for other security-related reasons.

In Kosovo, the ICRC carried on monitoring the situation of minority communities and IDPs, taking note of security concerns and raising them with the relevant authorities.

The ICRC kept up its IHL training activities for members of academia and armed and security forces in the region and organized numerous IHL events such as seminars, briefings and competitions, including the Jean Pictet international moot court competition held in Serbia in March. Throughout the region, the organization worked to promote the introduction of the Exploring Humanitarian Law programme in the regular school system.

The ICRC helped to strengthen the structures and capacities of the region’s National Societies. In Kosovo, it pursued efforts to bring the two local Red Cross units together and continued to support their programmes through training in the Safer Access approach and the provision of first-aid materials.

CIVILIANS

Clarifying the fate of missing persons

Kosovo conflict

By the end of 2006, 2,144 people were still unaccounted for in relation to the Kosovo conflict. With two public sessions in March and May and five closed sessions, the ICRC-chaired Working Group on Missing Persons in Kosovo ensured that a much-needed dialogue between Belgrade and Pristina was maintained. However, only modest results were achieved during 2006 in terms of obtaining new information on the fate of individuals and gravesite locations.

With support from the ICRC, 167 remaining bodies exhumed from mass graves in Serbia were handed over to UNMIK. A total of 74 bodies identified in Kosovo were handed over to the Serbian authorities and returned to their families, who buried them either in Serbia proper or in Kosovo. Two gravesites were exhumed and six sets of human remains were found. The ante-mortem data of 9 individuals were collected from families in Serbia and in Montenegro and 65 from families in Kosovo.

Additionally, the ICRC continued to assist families of the missing and their associations. In cooperation with the local Red Cross, it provided psychological support and first-aid assistance to the families during visits to the morgue, the handover of human remains and reburials.

- 7 meetings of the Working Group on Missing Persons, 5 meetings of the Sub-Working Group on Forensic Issues and 4 teleconferences held
- new tracing requests registered for 30 people (10 females, 2 minors at the time of disappearance); 2,494 names of people sought by their families published on the ICRC website www.familylinks.icrc.org; 267 people located; 2,144 people (318 females, 194 minors at the time of disappearance) still being sought
- 500 relatives of missing persons benefited from 25 psychological support projects implemented by family associations and local Red Cross units in Kosovo, and 17 such projects for family associations given technical and financial support in Serbia and in Montenegro
- 3 capacity-building seminars organized for representatives of family associations in Serbia and in Montenegro, focusing on project proposal writing, project management and leadership and team-building skills
- 3 meetings organized with the local authorities in Belgrade, Kraljevo and Novi Sad to promote the legal and administrative rights of families of the missing

## MAIN FIGURES AND INDICATORS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses)</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Detainees visited</td>
<td>168</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Detainees visited and monitored individually</td>
<td>165</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of visits carried out</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of places of detention visited</td>
<td>17</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RESTORING FAMILY LINKS</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Red Cross messages (RCMs) and reunifications</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RCMs collected</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RCMs distributed</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tracing requests, including cases of missing persons</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>People for whom a tracing request was newly registered</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tracing requests closed positively (persons located)</td>
<td>267</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tracing requests still being handled at 31 December 2006</td>
<td>2,158</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
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<tr>
<th>DOCUMENTS ISSUED</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>People to whom a detention attestation was issued</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
to basic public services was difficult because whether residents, IDPs or returnees. Access major concern of minority communities, Actual or perceived insecurity remained a providing assistance in Kosovo

families of the missing.

In addition, the ICRC continued to assist families of the missing.

- 123 family members from Serbia and from Montenegro enabled to travel to Zagreb to help confirm identifications
- 900 enquirers contacted in Serbia to inform them of the closure of the ICRC Zagreb office and asked for their consent to the transfer of their files to the Croatian Red Cross
- 70 Bosniak families living in Serbia and 18 in Montenegro briefed on procedures regarding clarification of the fate of missing persons
- 14 people (1 minor at the time of disappearance) still being sought in relation to the FYR Macedonia

Providing assistance in Kosovo

Actual or perceived insecurity remained a major concern of minority communities, whether residents, IDPs or returnees. Access to basic public services was difficult because of limited freedom of movement.

- 1,074 people (199 families) among the most vulnerable members of resident minority communities, IDPs and returnees received food and non-food items
- an assessment of the Kosovo Bosniak minority community in western Kosovo conducted to identify their main concerns and find appropriate ways to address them
- in coordination with the Movement, international organizations and NGOs, the immediate basic needs of the most vulnerable social cases among minority communities addressed
- forced returnees from Western countries visited to assess their basic needs and main concerns, with specific cases referred to the relevant authorities
- 3 patients from Toponica psychiatric hospital in Serbia reunited with their families in Kosovo and 1 elderly person transferred from Serbia to the geriatric centre in Pristina
- 3 RCMs collected from and 15 distributed to civilians
- 88 certificates of various types delivered

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

Serbia

The situation in prisons was assessed by the ICRC after several large-scale protests by detainees and subsequent interventions by the authorities. Despite the authorities' general acceptance of the organization's standard visiting procedures, efforts were ongoing to obtain a written agreement on access to all people detained and systematic notification of the arrest and detention of all people accused of war crimes.

- 81 detainees visited, 80 of them monitored individually (1 female), including 16 newly registered, during 17 visits to 7 places of detention
- 2 detention certificates issued to former detainees or their families

The transfer from Croatia of ethnic Serb detainees to places of detention in Serbia was one of the main issues discussed with the authorities. While still in Croatia, these 17 detainees benefited from the family visits programme organized by the ICRC.

Montenegro

In addition to persons sentenced for war crimes, people arrested and detained on charges of "terrorism" were visited. Representations regarding treatment and conditions of detention were made to the arresting and detaining authorities.

- 15 detainees visited and monitored individually, including 14 newly registered, during 4 visits to 1 place of detention

Kosovo

The transfer of penal management responsibilities from UNMIK to the Kosovo Correctional Service continued. Dubrava prison remained the only detention facility yet to be fully handed over to the local authorities. Visits were made to civil places of detention, and the NATO Commander, Kosovo Force (COMKFOR), confirmed the legal framework guaranteeing ICRC access to and notification of persons held in military places of detention.

- 53 detainees visited, 50 of them monitored individually, including 15 newly registered, during 16 visits to 7 places of detention
- 1 RCM collected from a detainee
- 8 detention certificates issued to former detainees or their families

FYR Macedonia

Continuous efforts were made and many contacts established with both local and international authorities in order to ensure full ICRC access to all categories of detainees. However, the ICRC did not succeed in visiting two detainees kept in pre-trial detention for about a year. In April, both detainees, who were citizens of Albania, were released and repatriated. They met ICRC delegates for debriefing after their return to their home country.

- 19 detainees visited and monitored individually, including 2 newly registered, during 4 visits to 2 places of detention

Albania

The ICRC continued to follow up the case of five Uighurs formerly held at the US detention facility at Guantanamo Bay Naval Station in Cuba. In August, they were accorded refugee status in Albania and accommodated in the refugee centre in Tirana.

AUTHORITIES

With the establishment of two separate States, Serbia acceded to all IHL instruments, while Montenegro acceded to the most important ones.

In Kosovo, regular briefings were conducted with key international and PISG stakeholders to engage them fully in the process of clarifying the fate of missing persons.

In the FYR Macedonia, a national IHL committee was created in July and held its first working session in November.

ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

Armed forces throughout the region were encouraged to integrate IHL into their training programmes. The armed forces of the FYR Macedonia fully integrated IHL into their doctrine and operations and took over responsibility for IHL training.
Armed forces personnel from Albania and the FYR Macedonia participated in IHL workshops and seminars prior to deployment on peace-support operations abroad.

Teams from the Serbian military and police academies participated in an IHL competition in San Remo and the national IHL moot court competition in Niš.

One representative of the Serbian Ministry of the Interior and one training officer from the Albanian armed forces were sponsored to attend IHL courses in San Remo.

Officers of the NATO-led Kosovo Force at COMKFOR and regional levels attended ICRC briefings on missing persons and detention activities.

Kosovo protection corps officers attended seminars on IHL and provisions for civil defence organizations.

Senior police officers from across the region attended a variety of IHL dissemination sessions.

**CIVIL SOCIETY**

**Media**

Efforts were pursued to raise the media’s awareness of IHL and ensure balanced reporting on humanitarian issues. To this end, media representatives from throughout the region attended briefing sessions on the ICRC’s mandate and activities in general and on Additional Protocol III in particular.

On the occasion of the International Day of the Disappeared, the ICRC launched a campaign appealing to the population in Kosovo to provide additional information on the fate of missing persons.

**Schools**

Following pilot-testing, the relevant ministries in Serbia and the FYR Macedonia decided to proceed with the integration of the Exploring Humanitarian Law programme into school curricula. Likewise, the Montenegrin Institute of Education recommended that the programme be integrated into the school curriculum in Montenegro.

Education officials in Kosovo accepted the Albanian version of the Exploring Humanitarian Law programme as a model for implementation in schools.

An agreement on implementation of the Exploring Humanitarian Law programme was signed between the Albanian minister of education and the ICRC. Subsequently, a national coordinator, advisory committee and working group were appointed to organize teacher training and pilot-testing of the programme in 24 schools in 11 towns in Albania.

**Universities**

With ICRC support, institutes of higher education continued to reinforce IHL teaching and research. All the major law and political science faculties in Serbia had introduced IHL as a separate course by the end of the year. Moreover, the University of Belgrade’s faculty of political sciences established and opened an IHL centre, the first research, education, publishing and documentation institution of its kind in the region. The rector and IHL professors of Pristina University were offered support in introducing IHL as a separate course.

- 150 students and IHL experts from all continents participated in the 2006 Jean Pictet moot court competition in Vrnjacka Banja (Serbia), the first held in a post-conflict country in its 18-year history
- 50 students and lecturers from the western Balkans attended a regional IHL course in Belgrade
- teams from all the major law faculties in Serbia and the University of Belgrade’s faculty of political sciences participated in the national IHL moot court competition in Niš
- students of Skopje University’s faculty of law attended a presentation on IHL and the ICRC

**RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT**

The recognition by the ICRC of the Red Cross of Serbia and the Red Cross of Montenegro led to the harmonization of their respective statutes within the Movement’s guidelines. Both National Societies received support in carrying out a capacity and needs assessment regarding dissemination and tracing.

In Kosovo, efforts were pursued to bring the two local Red Cross units together, but they were still separate at year’s end. Both units received support in reducing cases of misuse of the emblem. A total of 43 first-aid instructors from the two units attended six training courses on the Safer Access approach. All Red Cross branches were provided with first-aid materials. The Red Cross of Kosovo and Metohija received support to distribute assistance to minor-
KEY POINTS

In 2006, the ICRC:

- concluded agreements with the Croatian government and the National Society on the transfer of responsibility for the future management of files on missing persons and closed its mission in Zagreb;
- welcomed the signature of Additional Protocol III by all States in the region, Slovakia’s implementation of the Rome Statute, Estonia’s adoption of a law on protection of the emblem and Romania’s establishment of a national IHL committee;
- participated in NATO-led military exercises and training activities and encouraged and supported efforts to disseminate IHL among the region’s armed forces;
- jointly convened a conference with the Polish Institute of International Affairs on IHL and the role of private security companies in armed conflict and organized a media workshop on IHL and reporting on armed conflicts and humanitarian issues;
- concluded agreements with the Estonian and Romanian governments and the respective National Societies on the introduction of the Exploring Humanitarian Law programme in secondary school curricula and supported the creation of IHL research centres in Bucharest and Krakow.

CONTEXT

Eight of the region’s countries were already members of the European Union (EU) and ten were members of NATO. Bulgaria and Romania were preparing for EU accession in January 2007, leaving Croatia the only country in the region neither an EU nor a NATO member.

In May, Slovenia received the EU’s green light to replace its national currency with the euro in January 2007. At the same time, Lithuania’s application to introduce the euro was rejected because of its failure to meet the inflation target.

Parliamentary elections passed off peacefully in the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia. Poland’s stability, however, was shaken six months after the elections by controversy over the composition of the new coalition government. In Hungary, leaked comments by the prime minister admitting that the government had lied about the state of the economy sparked violent demonstrations in the capital. In the Czech Republic, as the result of the elections was indecisive, no agreement could be reached on a coalition and no new government was formed.

In Slovakia, the June parliamentary elections saw the winning Social Democrat Smer Party form a coalition government with a centre-left party and a right-wing party.

The Romanian government lost its parliamentary majority in December, when the Conservative Party left the coalition.
ICRC ACTION

The ICRC handed over responsibility for the future management of files on persons reported missing during the conflicts in Croatia (1991–95) to the Croatian Red Cross and closed its mission in Zagreb at the end of the year. This was the first time the ICRC had transferred responsibility for files on missing persons to a National Society.

The delegation continued to encourage the countries of the region to create national committees for the implementation of IHL and welcomed the establishment of such a committee in Romania. It also kept up dialogue with all 11 States on the promotion and national implementation of IHL treaties.

The ICRC continued to participate in multilateral military exercises, such as those conducted with NATO, and, when opportune, in national military exercises. It also took part in or organized national and multinational training events for military legal advisers.

Tripartite memoranda of understanding were concluded with the relevant ministries and National Societies of Estonia and Romania concerning the introduction of the Exploring Humanitarian Law programme in secondary school curricula.

ICRC technical assistance to National Societies focused on sustainable capacity development, while direct financial support was gradually reduced.

CIVILIANS

Eleven years after the signing of the Dayton Peace Agreement, the fate of 2,387 people (488 females, 54 children at the time of disappearance) recorded by the ICRC as missing in connection with the conflicts in Croatia between 1991 and 1995 remained unknown, despite the ongoing process of exhumation and identification carried out by Croatia’s Department for Detained and Missing Persons (DDMP).

In 2006, a total of 154 ante-mortem data forms that had been collected in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Serbia and by National Societies in other countries were transmitted by the ICRC to the DDMP.

Coming mostly from Montenegro or Serbia, families attended two identification sessions organized in Zagreb with the ICRC’s support concerning people who went missing or were killed in Croatia between 1991 and 1995. As a result, 36 bodies were identified. Five families that could not identify their missing relatives by traditional methods requested DNA analyses. Seven families received assistance to bury their relatives in their native villages in Croatia.

Taking into account the current situation and the capabilities of the Croatian Red Cross, the ICRC transferred responsibility for files on missing persons to the National Society, effective as of 2007.

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

The ICRC continued to monitor the conditions of detention and treatment of people detained in Croatia in relation to past conflicts. It followed up on people arrested on charges of war crimes and on released detainees, thanks to systematic notification of such arrests and releases from the Croatian Ministry of Justice.

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completed. The Slovak national IHL committee, with ICRC participation, organized a nationwide event marking the country’s implementation of the Rome Statute.

**ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS**

Efforts were pursued to integrate IHL into the training of armed forces throughout the region. ICRC participation in NATO-led training activities, such as exercises and seminars on peace-support operations and civil-military cooperation, increased.

- military legal advisers from across the region attended an IHL course in Vienna, Austria, while 30 Bulgarian military legal advisers took part in a four-day national training course organized by the ICRC.
- military observers attended IHL lectures, and military instructors participated in IHL workshops and training courses organized with ICRC support.
- armed forces personnel from Hungary and Poland attended ICRC presentations on civil-military relations.

**CIVIL SOCIETY**

**Media and opinion-leaders**

The ICRC continued to develop its network of contacts with media outlets, research institutes and think-tanks across the region in order to raise awareness of IHL.

In Romania, a memorandum of understanding was signed with the Centre for Defence and Security Strategic Studies on sharing publications and information on programmes and research, as well as opening up the possibility of co-organizing seminars and workshops.

- 20 high-level representatives of government and academic circles, as well as some 100 other participants from the media and the business world, attended a two-day conference on IHL and the role of private security companies during armed conflict, co-organized by the ICRC and the Polish Institute of International Affairs in Warsaw.
- 25 foreign affairs correspondents and senior editors from Bulgaria, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Romania and Slovenia participated in a workshop on the reporting of humanitarian issues and the role of the media in armed conflict.
- 30 young journalists trained in the basics of IHL at regional workshops in Budapest and Prague.
- a public panel discussion and a photo exhibition entitled “Caught in the Crossfire” held in Budapest on International Women’s Day.
- 6 teams from the region sponsored to attend the Jean Pictet IHL moot court competition in Vrnjacka Banja, Serbia.

**RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT**

Issues pertaining to the governance, integrity and organizational development of the region’s National Societies were the focus of attention of both the ICRC and the International Federation.

The Hungarian Red Cross adopted new statutes in accordance with the recommendations of the joint International Federation-ICRC commission.

The dissemination and tracing services of the 11 National Societies continued to receive ICRC technical support. Regional dissemination and tracing workshops took place in Budapest. Leaders of all the region’s National Societies attended the European Tracing Conference in Kyiv, Ukraine.

The Croatian Red Cross agreed to assume responsibility for the management of files on missing persons after the closure of the ICRC mission in Zagreb in December.

Schools

Countries in the region were encouraged to integrate the Exploring Humanitarian Law programme into secondary school curricula, for which priority was given to States committed to ensuring full ownership of the programme. To this end, memoranda of understanding were signed with the Estonian and Romanian Ministries of Education and the respective National Societies.

Estonia, Romania and Slovenia created steering committees to prepare and monitor integration of the Exploring Humanitarian Law programme into national curricula. In Croatia, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland, the programme continued to be incorporated through the National Societies into each country’s educational system but outside formal curricula.

The European Education Leadership Conference on Exploring Humanitarian Law, the first event of its kind organized by the ICRC, took place in Vienna in May. Representatives of the region’s National Societies and Ministries of Education participated in the meeting and discussed the status of the programme’s implementation in Europe.

Universities

Law faculties of the region’s leading universities continued to enter into a structured framework of cooperation with the ICRC regarding the teaching of IHL. Memoranda of understanding were concluded with four universities and renewed with two others to introduce IHL as a separate course at both graduate and undergraduate levels, and all of them received the latest publications on IHL. An IHL research centre opened at Nicolae Titulescu University in Bucharest and another was under development at Jagiellonian University in Krakow.

Teaching staff and students continued to benefit from IHL training, and special events were held in Geneva, Krakow, Miskolc (Hungary), Tallinn, Vilnius and Warsaw.

- 11 teams from the region participated in the 3rd regional Friedrich Born IHL competition organized in cooperation with Ljubljana University.
The Kyiv regional delegation, in operation since 1995, promotes the integration of IHL into national legislation, school and university curricula and the training programmes and codes of conduct of the armed, police and security forces in the region. It visits detainees in the Transnistrian region of the Republic of Moldova and monitors the treatment and conditions of security detainees in Belarus. The ICRC is strengthening cooperation with the region’s National Societies and helping them to address emerging needs for humanitarian assistance, such as those of detained migrants.

**CONTEXT**

Early in the year, relations between Belarus, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine on the one hand and the Russian Federation on the other hand became strained. The rift arose over gas supplies, provoking concerns in Europe over energy security. Conciliatory moves by Minsk and Chisinau and a change of government in Kyiv eventually helped ease the tensions.

In Ukraine, parliamentary elections in March confirmed an almost even split between pro-Western and pro-Russian camps. As supporters of President Viktor Yushchenko’s “Orange Revolution” remained divided, it was left to Viktor Yanukovych and his Party of Regions to form a new coalition government. Political instability at the top did not prevent the economy from growing fast again, at 7% in 2006, although the 100% rise in gas prices hit utility bills hard. Internationally, Ukraine continued to seek greater integration with the European Union (EU) but no longer with NATO.

In Belarus, President Alexander Lukashenko won a sizeable majority during presidential elections in March, elections declared fraudulent by the international community. The opposition staged street protests, which ended with the arrest and detention of over 800 people, most of whom were released after 15–20 days. Several opposition figures, however, were sentenced to prison terms. In December, the Russian energy company Gazprom forced the Belarusian authorities into accepting a deal doubling the price of natural gas as of January 2007 and giving it control of 50% of the gas pipelines transiting Belarus. Relations with the EU worsened following the election, and EU travel bans and asset freezes affected Belarusian leaders.

The Republic of Moldova sought closer Euro-Atlantic integration. Relations with the Russian Federation deteriorated when gas supplies were briefly cut and prices raised but improved later when Moscow lifted its ban on Moldovan wine imports. Supported by Ukraine and the EU, the Republic of Moldova regained some leverage over its breakaway region of Transnistria, when new customs rules were introduced in March obliging Transnistrian exports to Ukraine to be registered in the Republic of Moldova. Moscow continued to side with Tiraspol. The Transnistrian parliament cancelled the 1993 bill on confederation with the Republic of Moldova, and the region’s authorities held a successful but unrecognized referendum on independence in September.
ICRC ACTION

The ICRC continued to visit the last two members of the “Ilascu group” detained in the Moldovan breakaway region of Transnistria. The Belarusian authorities turned down the ICRC’s offer to visit people detained in connection with post-election protests.

As a priority, the ICRC continued to assist the authorities of the three countries covered in their efforts to incorporate IHL into national legislation, military training and school and university curricula. This was done by encouraging the ministries concerned to exercise ownership of programmes, while the ICRC facilitated coordination, trained trainers and monitored progress. The national IHL committees of Belarus and the Republic of Moldova were active, moving ahead with the implementation of IHL treaties with ICRC support.

Cooperation with Moldovan and Ukrainian universities in the integration of IHL progressed well. In Belarus, national IHL events for students were organized by the ICRC for the first time.

The ICRC welcomed the development of the Exploring Humanitarian Law programme throughout the region and opened 17 Exploring Humanitarian Law resource centres.

In the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine, the highest echelons of the Ministry of Defence decided to take over progressively from the ICRC in the training of the armed forces in IHL, representing a major step forward in integration of the subject, achieved with ICRC guidance and support. In Transnistria, no progress was made concerning the ICRC’s offer to start an IHL programme for the local security forces, despite renewed efforts by the organization to engage in dialogue on the subject with the relevant authorities. In Belarus, the ICRC proposed carrying out with the authorities a joint evaluation of the IHL/international human rights law training programme for security forces.

Cooperation with the region’s National Societies focused on restoring family links and dissemination of IHL. The tracing programme for detained migrants initiated in 2004 with the Ukrainian Red Cross Society was extended from western Ukraine to three new provinces. The ICRC maintained regular contacts with other agencies involved in issues pertaining to detained migrants.

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

In Transnistria, the remaining two members of the “Ilascu group” held in Tiraspol and Glinoi prison colonies were visited by ICRC delegates, including a doctor. The visits were carried out according to the ICRC’s standard procedures, and recommendations regarding their treatment and living conditions were submitted to the detaining authorities upon completion of the visits. In December, the ICRC registered a new security detainee, for the first time since 1993, who had been sentenced to 13 years in prison.

With the ICRC acting as a neutral intermediary, eight Chinese migrants who had been under house arrest in northern Transnistria were transferred to the Republic of Moldova in October. They were handed over to their consular authorities for voluntary repatriation to China.

In August, a two-day training course on the management of tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS in prison was organized by the ICRC for all nine doctors and nurses of the Transnistrian prison system.

In Belarus, following the arrest and sentencing of demonstrators after the March presidential elections, the ICRC formally offered its services to the authorities to visit the detainees. The Belarusian authorities responded in the negative. In December, the ICRC met the authorities in Minsk to enhance their understanding of the organization’s mandate and standard procedures for visiting detainees.

AUTHORITIES

In February, the president of Ukraine signed a law lifting the country’s reservations to the 1949 Geneva Conventions. Owing to the political changes and the appointment of new members, the national IHL committee did not make any significant progress in its work in 2006.

In Belarus, the Ministry of Justice and the national IHL committee, encouraged by the ICRC, launched a study on the compatibility of national legislation with the Hague Convention on Cultural Property in December.

With the Moldovan government considering ratification of the Rome Statute as a priority, a draft law concerning the necessary amendments to the Constitution and relevant legislation entered its final stages before adoption by parliament. In December, the Ministry of Justice submitted the draft law to the ICRC for advice. A study to gauge how far national legislation covered the needs of the families of missing persons was completed by a working group set up by the Ministry of Justice and the Moldovan Association of International Humanitarian Law. The findings were presented to the authorities at a round-table sponsored by the ICRC.

Senior civil servants from all three countries attended, with ICRC support, the 3rd European meeting of national IHL committees in Athens, Greece, the 6th Martens Readings conference in Saint Petersburg and a regional conference on customary IHL in Moscow, Russian Federation.
ARMS FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

In the three countries covered, the Ministries of Defence and armed forces training institutions maintained a dialogue with the ICRC regarding the integration of IHL into military doctrine, education and training. The Moldovan and Ukrainian armed forces continued to adopt NATO standards in IHL training, and training sessions were conducted by the ICRC for troop contingents prior to deployment on peacekeeping missions abroad. Progress was achieved with ICRC support in a number of areas, with the Moldovan and Ukrainian armed forces, in particular, increasing their ownership of training programmes.

- A Moldovan Ministry of Defence order issued requiring all military training and operational procedures to conform to IHL norms.
- A Ukrainian army IHL centre opened at the Military Institute of Kyiv National University.
- 1,160 instructors, officers and cadets attended 25 IHL training sessions.

There were mixed results concerning cooperation with the police and security forces of the region. Senior officers and instructors from the three countries attended training seminars organized by the ICRC on IHL/international human rights law. In Belarus, following seven years of cooperation with the security forces, the ICRC looked forward to a response from the Ministry of the Interior to its proposal to conduct a joint evaluation of the level of integration of human rights and IHL achieved in both the police training programme and operating procedures. In Transnistria, the de facto Ministry of Foreign Affairs did not respond to the ICRC’s offer to initiate an IHL programme for the security forces.

CIVIL SOCIETY

Media and opinion-leaders

The ICRC continued to develop its network of contacts with media and think-tanks across the region in order to promote its mandate and raise awareness of IHL.

- “Women and War” photo exhibition shown in Chisinau, Kyiv, Minsk and Tiraspol.
- 5 national media outlets covered the European Tracing Conference held in Kyiv.
- 2 representatives of think-tanks from the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine sponsored to attend a meeting of Eastern European think-tanks and an ICRC conference on IHL and the role of private security companies during armed conflict, both held in Warsaw, Poland.

Schools

The Ministries of Education in the three countries covered expressed ownership of the Exploring Humanitarian Law programme. Schools that had integrated the programme into their curricula totalled 1,800 in Ukraine, 500 in Belarus and 200 in the Republic of Moldova. A network of 17 Exploring Humanitarian Law resource centres was set up with ICRC support, contributing to better coordination and exchange of experiences between Exploring Humanitarian Law specialists throughout the region. The education authorities introduced the programme in all schools in Transnistria. In Ukraine, terms of reference were drawn up for a first national evaluation of the programme three years after its launch.

Throughout the year, the ICRC supported the development of the Exploring Humanitarian Law programme in the region at several levels, advising ministry officials, financing train-the-trainer seminars, organizing coordination meetings for teachers and providing equipment and books.

- Some 700 teachers and 1,300 pupils attended 12 Exploring Humanitarian Law training seminars and conferences organized by the ICRC.

Universities

The region’s main faculties of law and international relations continued to integrate IHL into their curricula, with 37 such faculties offering IHL courses to students. With ICRC support, IHL events for academics and competitions for students were held and IHL publications were donated to university libraries.

- IHL moot court and essay competitions held in each of the 3 countries, for the first time in Belarus.
- 23 Ukrainian university lecturers took part in a meeting to discuss how best to integrate IHL into their teaching.
- 2 Belarusian, 4 Moldovan and 5 Ukrainian academics sponsored to participate in 2 separate IHL conferences in the Russian Federation.

RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT

The National Societies of all three countries received support from the ICRC in the fields of tracing and IHL dissemination for young people. The European Tracing Conference took place in Kyiv in November, focusing on strengthening the Movement’s activities to restore family links.

In Ukraine, the tracing programme conducted by the ICRC in cooperation with the National Society to enable detained migrants to restore family and consular links was extended to three new border regions. A joint evaluation was also made of the psychological needs of children affected by explosions in old Soviet ammunition depots in the south, and plans were made to set up a rapid response trauma unit in 2007. In addition, 21 first-aid points run by the Crimean branch of the Ukrainian Red Cross Society, benefiting over 27,000 vulnerable Tatar returnees and isolated elderly people, received medical supplies and emergency kits from the ICRC.

In Belarus, the National Society’s headquarters and regional branches supported the educational authorities in organizing Exploring Humanitarian Law events.

In the Republic of Moldova, no clear separation of the National Society’s governance and management was achieved. Exploring Humanitarian Law activities were developed on both sides of the river Dniestr by the National Society in cooperation with the ICRC.
The Moscow delegation, which opened in 1992, combines operational functions in the Russian Federation with regional functions for other members of the Commonwealth of Independent States. In the Russian Federation, the ICRC assists vulnerable populations affected by the conflict in Chechnya, in cooperation with the National Society, and supports capacity building of the National Society in the northern Caucasus. The ICRC seeks to gain access, in accordance with its standard procedures, to all persons detained in connection with the conflict in Chechnya. In all the countries covered, it runs long-term communication programmes to promote IHL and foster understanding of the ICRC’s mandate and work.

COVERING
the Russian Federation, with specialized services for Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Republic of Moldova, Ukraine and parts of Central Asia

The security situation in the northern Caucasus remained unstable. Besides almost weekly incidents in Chechnya, Dagestan and Ingushetia, including attacks on law enforcement agencies and special operations by the security forces, there were tensions in other republics, such as in the south-east of Stavropol Krai and between North Ossetia and Ingushetia over the district of Prigorodny.

In Ingushetia, the deputy interior minister died in a car bomb attack in May, and Shamil Basayev, who had claimed responsibility for the 2002 Moscow theatre hostage crisis and the 2004 Beslan school siege, was killed by an explosion in July. In Chechnya, the leader of the armed opposition, Abdul-Khalim Sadulayev, was killed in a police operation in June.

Although there was still some fighting in Chechnya, the overall security situation in the republic improved slightly. Reconstruction work gathered pace in major cities such as Grozny, Argun and Gudermes. Nevertheless, many people lacked adequate shelter and sufficient access to water, gas and electricity. Mines and other explosive remnants of war (ERW) still posed problems for civilians in their daily lives. Allegations of disappearances continued to be collected by humanitarian organizations.

The Supreme Court of North Ossetia sentenced the only captured hostage-taker in the Beslan school siege to life imprisonment in May. Beslan organizations continued to demand an independent inquiry into the role of the security forces during the siege.

IDPs returned to Chechnya from neighbouring republics, especially Ingushetia, in greater numbers than in previous years. Of the 72 collective centres in Ingushetia, 40 were closed.

At the federal level, President Vladimir Putin signed an anti-terrorist bill into law in March, granting a range of powers to law enforcement agencies and the military. The law allowed the military to shoot down civilian aircraft or destroy vessels hijacked by “terrorists”, if they ignored official warnings, and empowered the president to send troops abroad on anti-“terrorist” missions.

A new law came into force in April providing for tighter control over NGOs operating in the Russian Federation. The law enabled close scrutiny of such organizations, in particular their sources of funding, and obliged them to re-register with the authorities. Despite concerns about the law, all international NGOs working in the northern Caucasus had re-registered by December. After it sought clarification from the authorities, the ICRC was told it was exempted.
The ICRC maintained permanent offices in seven locations in the northern Caucasus, including Grozny, Khasavyurt, Nalchik and Nazran, in addition to its regional delegation in Moscow.

Given the unfavourable outcome of discussions with the Russian authorities on the resumption of detention visits, the ICRC was unable to accomplish its objectives for people deprived of their freedom. The exception was the family visits programme enabling close relatives to visit detainees held in penal colonies.

An extended expatriate presence, especially in Chechnya, including in the southern part of the republic, put the ICRC in a better position to monitor the situation of the civilian population. As the local authorities in Chechnya had begun to devote more attention to the problem of missing persons, the ICRC developed contacts with official structures and organizations addressing the issue.

In light of the improved security situation in Chechnya and the trend towards reconstruction, humanitarian organizations began gradually to phase out emergency aid in favour of rehabilitation and development programmes. This enabled the ICRC to scale down its own assistance programmes. The overall number of beneficiaries of ICRC economic support therefore decreased. Greater involvement of the authorities also allowed the ICRC to slightly reduce its support to the health system. It continued to develop mine-risk education activities throughout the republic and to build additional safe play areas in mine-affected communities.

The ICRC’s Moscow-based regional communication centre supported long-term programmes in the Russian Federation and elsewhere in the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) to raise awareness of IHL among the authorities and the armed and security forces and to promote the implementation of IHL treaties. The ICRC also targeted universities, secondary schools and NGOs whose work touched on IHL and humanitarian issues and built contacts with opinion-leaders and decision-makers in both Russia and the CIS.

The Russian Red Cross Society continued to receive ICRC support in strengthening its capacities, in particular in the northern Caucasus.

The ICRC organized a commemorative ceremony at the former field hospital in Novye Atagi (Chechnya) for the six delegates who were killed there 10 years earlier on 17 December.

The ICRC still had no news of its Grozny staff member, Usman Saidaliev, abducted by unidentified armed men at his home in Chechnya in August 2003.

Restoring family links

Families continued to approach the ICRC to report alleged arrests and disappearances in Chechnya, Daghestan and Ingushetia. The ICRC urged the authorities to investigate these reports and to inform the relatives accordingly.

In parallel, the ICRC explored ways to assist the authorities in clarifying the fate of missing persons. Contacts were forged with the newly established Chechen parliamentary commission on missing persons and with organizations involved in addressing the issue.

Relatives separated by conflict continued to use the ICRC’s RCM network to keep in touch, and refugees and asylum seekers were provided, on request, with documents to facilitate their resettlement in host countries.

- 94 RCMs collected from and 145 distributed to civilians
- new tracing requests registered for 248 people (18 females, 9 minors at the time of disappearance); 82 people located; 1,276 people (43 females, 40 minors at the time of disappearance) still being sought
- 106 people issued with an ICRC travel document

Assistance to the most vulnerable

With the increased presence and mobility of its delegates, especially in Chechnya, the ICRC was better placed to monitor the situation of civilians. This enabled it to streamline its assistance programmes to target the most vulnerable. Although the authorities and the ICRC continued to strengthen contacts, there was no substantive dialogue on protection-related issues.

In Chechnya, over 55,000 of the most vulnerable people in mainly urban areas continued to receive essential household items to meet their basic needs, and 49,000 oil and sugar for food preservation. The number of beneficiaries decreased over the year. Regular contact was maintained with the authorities and other humanitarian actors

### MAIN FIGURES AND INDICATORS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DOCUMENTS ISSUED</th>
<th>CIVILIANS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>RESTORING FAMILY LINKS</strong></td>
<td><strong>Economic security, water and habitat</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Red Cross messages (RCMs) and reunifications</td>
<td><strong>Food</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RCMs collected</td>
<td>Beneficiaries 71,735</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RCMs distributed</td>
<td>Beneficiaries 79,502</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tracing requests, including cases of missing persons</td>
<td><strong>Essential household items</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>People for whom a tracing request was newly registered</td>
<td>Beneficiaries 3,671</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tracing requests closed positively (persons located)</td>
<td><strong>Agricultural inputs and micro-economic initiatives</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>People for whom a tracing request was newly registered</td>
<td>Beneficiaries 680,380</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tracing requests still being handled at 31 December 2006</td>
<td><strong>Habitat structures</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>People to whom travel documents were issued</td>
<td>Beneficiaries 15,960</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>People to whom a detention attestation was issued</td>
<td><strong>WOUNDED AND SICK</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Hospitals supported</strong></td>
<td><strong>Physical rehabilitation</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Admissions</strong></td>
<td><strong>Patients</strong> 85,851</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Operations</strong></td>
<td><strong>Operations performed</strong> 19,277</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Physical rehabilitation</strong></td>
<td><strong>Patients</strong> 924</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Prostheses delivered</strong></td>
<td><strong>Pieces</strong> 211</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Orthoses delivered</strong></td>
<td><strong>Pieces</strong> 137</td>
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<tr>
<th><strong>CIVILIANS</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>FOOD</strong></td>
<td><strong>Agricultural inputs and micro-economic initiatives</strong></td>
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<tr>
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| **ORTHOSES DELIVERED** | **Beneficiaries 71,735** |
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| **Beneficiaries 137** |
in order to ensure that the increasing numbers of Chechen IDPs returning to Chechnya did so on a voluntary basis and that conditions in places of return were adequate. In Dagestan and Ingushetia, over 22,000 IDPs continued to receive essential household items to cover their basic needs, including oil and sugar for food preservation. The number of beneficiaries in both Dagestan and Ingushetia decreased over the year.

Through micro-economic projects, households in Chechnya, Dagestan and Ingushetia received in-kind grants from the ICRC enabling them to generate regular additional income and thus reduce their dependence on outside assistance. In all three republics, the number of planned projects was revised downwards in order to ensure higher quality of those implemented. In all, 2,234 people (379 households) in Chechnya, 293 IDPs (67 households) in Dagestan and 1,144 IDPs (189 households) in Ingushetia benefited from such projects.

In Chechnya, Ingushetia, Kabardino-Balkaria, Karachayevo-Cherkesskaya and North Ossetia, ad hoc distributions were carried out through the Russian Red Cross and local administrations or directly by the ICRC to over 10,000 vulnerable individuals not assisted by regular ICRC programmes. Much of this assistance consisted of items left over from other distributions (clothing, shoes, tarpaulins, blankets, pillows, buckets, jerrycans). Most of the beneficiaries were residents of specialized institutions such as hospitals and orphanages.

71,735 people (12,362 households) received food: 49,402 people (8,178 households) in Chechnya, 6,857 IDPs (1,615 households) in Dagestan, 15,476 IDPs (2,569 households) in Ingushetia
79,502 people (12,466 households) received essential household items: 56,813 people (8,195 households) in Chechnya, 6,860 IDPs (1,588 households) in Dagestan, 15,829 IDPs (2,683 households) in Ingushetia
3,671 people (635 households) benefited from micro-economic initiatives

Improving general living conditions
In Chechnya, some 45,000 people in Grozny received 15 litres per person per day of potable water thanks to the continued operation of a pumping station by the ICRC. Water boards in Grozny and in rural Chechnya were supplied with technical equipment to carry out maintenance and repair work, improving water and sewage services for an estimated 600,000 people.

- some 3,000 people in 1 remote village benefited from construction work and the installation of piping to improve water distribution, and a further 3,000 in 1 other remote village set to benefit from ongoing similar work
- 180 people benefited from improved sanitation facilities in Shelkovskaya hospital
- 3,479 people in 2 IDP centres in Grozny, 382 people in 1 IDP centre in Argun and 1 hostel (20 beds) for the blind benefited from rehabilitated facilities
- some 8,000 people benefited from 391 heating stoves supplied to schools and social institutions

In Dagestan, laying of water pipes was undertaken in rural areas, and IDP centres were rehabilitated.

- some 7,000 people in 1 village benefited from equipment and construction work to improve water supply, and a further 755 in 1 other village set to benefit from ongoing similar work
- 180 IDPs in 1 collective centre benefited from rehabilitated facilities

In Ingushetia, the extension of the Karabulak water system was completed with the installation of 3 km of piping. Rehabilitation of IDP centres was carried out in cooperation with the Ingush branch of the Russian Red Cross.

- some 25,000 people in Karabulak benefited from improved water distribution
- some 1,100 IDPs in 5 collective centres benefited from rehabilitated facilities

In Kabardino-Balkaria, rehabilitation materials were donated to health facilities and social institutions benefiting some 3,000 people.

In total, in the northern Caucasus:
- 684,135 people benefited from completed (680,380 people) and ongoing (3,755 people) water/sanitation projects;
- 15,960 people benefited from completed habitat/shelter projects.

Mine action
The downward trend in the number of victims of mines/ERW in Chechnya over the previous two years did not persist in 2006. Although aware of mine risks, people still ventured into unsafe areas, mainly because of economic pressures. As a result, there were 26 mine or ERW casualties.

The authorities and other organizations involved in mine action were offered additional expertise by the ICRC, with the aim of promoting safe behaviour in mine-contaminated environments and finding alternative solutions to mine problems.

- 20 safe play areas established
- 20 murals with the slogan “Danger: mines” painted in schools in mine/ERW-affected districts
- 13 journalists attended a two-day regional seminar on mine-risk education

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM
The ICRC was unable to resume its visits to detainees in the Russian Federation in 2006. After suspending the programme in September 2004, it entered into negotiations with the Russian authorities in November 2004. Although the Russian authorities accepted the principle of ICRC visits to people arrested in relation to the conflict in Chechnya, no agreement was reached on respect for the ICRC’s standard procedures, namely that it may visit all detainees in a place of detention, speak with them in private, have access to all detention facilities and repeat visits.

The RCM service continued to be made available to people held in connection with the conflict so that they could maintain contact with their families.

The ICRC also continued to sponsor yearly family visits to detainees serving their sentences in penal colonies in the Russian Federation.

- 91 RCMs collected from and 105 distributed to detainees
- 321 detainees visited by their relatives with the support of the ICRC
- 19 detention certificates issued to former detainees or their families

WOUNDED AND SICK
Owing to a specific federal reconstruction programme in Chechnya and private local investment in the health system, the ICRC was able to slightly reduce its planned support
to the health sector. Thirteen Chechen hospitals and the Grozny central blood bank nevertheless continued to receive ICRC support, including the monthly maintenance of medical equipment. Ad hoc emergency support was provided to health facilities in Ingushetia and North Ossetia.

Three hospitals received medical equipment and instruments and two medical laboratories received diagnostic equipment. Three hospitals (444 beds) and two polyclinics (917 consultations per day) in Chechnya and one hospital (100 beds) in Dagestan benefited from major structural rehabilitation in such areas as roofing, heating, water and sanitation. Twenty-three medical specialists were sponsored by the ICRC to attend training sessions. Twenty surgeons from the northern Caucasus attended an ICRC war-surgery seminar in Saint Petersburg organized in cooperation with the Medical Military Academy. The Grozny central blood bank, to which 10,535 people donated blood, received blood-screening and blood-collection materials.

In the 13 ICRC-supported hospitals:

- 211 prostheses (42 for women and 16 for children; 163 for mine victims), 137 orthoses (25 for women and 93 for children; 1 for a mine victim) delivered

**AUTHORITIES**

The ICRC pursued its cooperation with the authorities of the Russian Federation and other CIS countries by providing them with advice and assistance in acceding to relevant IHL treaties and adopting national implementation measures.

The findings of the ICRC study on the compatibility of Russian legislation with IHL provisions on the protection of cultural property were presented to the authorities at a round-table.

The authorities and the ICRC regularly discussed the issue of missing persons. The ICRC also pursued its dialogue and cooperation with the CIS Interparliamentary Assembly on the drafting of a model law on the protection of the rights of missing persons and their families. A draft of the law was adopted at its first reading by the Assembly's Standing Commission on Social Policy and Human Rights.

The Russian-language version of the ICRC study on customary international humanitarian law was presented to the authorities at a regional conference on the subject held in Moscow in November.

**ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS**

The Russian Ministry of Defence maintained cooperation with the ICRC regarding the integration of IHL into all aspects of the doctrine and training of the armed forces. The ICRC continued to support international IHL train-the-trainer courses in the Russian Federation. It participated for the first time in dissemination activities at the headquarters of the Russian armed forces in the Siberian military district.

In the northern Caucasus, the ICRC conducted IHL train-the-trainer courses and dissemination sessions for armed forces serving under the Ministry of Defence and for members of forces assigned to the Ministry of the Interior.

For the armed forces:

- members of an independent working group on IHL implementation within the armed forces tasked with determining activities and priorities;
- IHL instructors from advanced training institutions and military secondary schools run by the Ministry of Defence participated in several workshops;
- military instructors attended 6 Senezh IHL train-the-trainer courses;
- army officers in the northern Caucasus military district attended 4 Senezh Kavkaz IHL courses;
- army officer cadets took part in international IHL competitions in San Remo, Italy, in Kazakhstan and in Ukraine;
- military secondary schools took part in the Suvorov IHL competition;
- officer schools took part in the General Skobelev IHL competition on the law and customs of war;
- military journalists participated in an IHL workshop.

For the police and security forces:

- a working group on the implementation of IHL/international human rights law within the interior troops set up and convened;
- 20 officers from the interior troops attended Senezh IHL train-the-trainer courses;
- members of the militia and prison services and officer cadets of the interior troops took part in an IHL/international human rights law competition;
- 1 medical services major-general participated in a war-surgery seminar in Saint Petersburg;
- interior troops and police officers attended presentations on the ICRC, its mandate and activities.

**CIVIL SOCIETY**

**Media**

Specific media coverage of ICRC activities was organized by the Moscow-based regional communication centre. Press conferences were held in Moscow where the main focus was on humanitarian values and in the northern Caucasus where the priority was operational support. Events were held to raise awareness of IHL.

- over 3,000 visitors attended the “Women and War” photo exhibition in Moscow, which later toured Chechnya, Dagestan, Ingushetia and Kabardino-Balkaria
a young Russian film-maker received a special prize from the ICRC at the “Message to Man” film festival for the best coverage of the humanitarian consequences of armed conflicts.

World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day (8 May) marked by a “Music and Humanity” festival in Nalchik.

23 representatives of the media, cultural centres and NGOs participated in a regional round-table on IHL and humanitarian principles.

Schools
The Russian Ministry of Education and the ICRC pursued cooperation on the integration of IHL into teacher training and school curricula. The ICRC continued to familiarize pupils in secondary schools and military colleges with the basic principles of IHL and humanitarian action and to conduct teacher-training programmes throughout the region. CD-ROMs and printed materials were produced and events organized to foster a basic understanding of IHL. The Ministry of Education continued to carry out qualitative and quantitative evaluations of programme impact. Teachers from Chechnya and specialists from the cadet military schools attended training seminars in Moscow.

Universities
The leading universities of the Russian Federation and other CIS countries continued to work with the ICRC to enhance the teaching of IHL and to support academic research and writing in this field.

• in cooperation with the Russian Association of International Law, the 3rd national IHL essay competition and the 9th Martens IHL competition organized.
• in cooperation with Saint Petersburg State University, the 6th Martens Readings conference on contemporary problems facing IHL organized.
• at the CIS level, the 2nd IHL summer school took place.
• in the Southern Federal District of the Russian Federation, law students from 8 universities took part in an IHL competition to raise interest in and awareness of IHL.

RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT
With the support of the joint International Federation-ICRC commission, the Russian Red Cross Society adopted new statutes at its 14th congress, and a new chairperson and governing board were elected. The National Society’s tracing centre continued to receive financial support from the ICRC, while three regional branches benefited from financial and technical support to set up sustainable IHL dissemination programmes.

In the northern Caucasus, the Russian Red Cross home-visiting nurses programme, which provided services and assistance to vulnerable and house-bound elderly people, continued to receive ICRC support. The National Society’s branches in Chechnya and Ingushetia received additional materials and the support of psychologists to run playrooms for young IDP children. Recreation centres were also set up with ICRC support to ensure that older children in conflict-affected communities had the opportunity to develop computer and language skills and receive psychological support when needed.

• 2,784 house-bound elderly people visited and assisted by 219 Red Cross nurses.
• 1,353 children attended 19 Red Cross playrooms.
• some 300 children attended Red Cross recreation centres.
On the basis of an agreement with the Turkish authorities and in direct relation to the conflict in neighbouring Iraq, the ICRC opened a temporary mission in Ankara in April 2003. ICRC activities in connection with the situation in Iraq focus mainly on protection issues. The mission in Ankara also provides logistic support for ICRC assistance programmes in the region. Other ICRC activities in Turkey include supporting the authorities in the promotion of IHL and assisting the armed forces in integrating IHL into their training programmes. In addition, the ICRC conducts a number of joint programmes with the Turkish Red Crescent Society.

### CONTEXT AND ICRC ACTION

The ICRC opened its temporary mission in Ankara in 2003 to support its operations in neighbouring Iraq, following an agreement reached with the Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs. It has since maintained its presence in the Turkish capital and strengthened its relations with the national authorities and the Turkish Red Crescent Society.

In 2006, dialogue with the Turkish authorities and with the National Society centred, among other things, on operational matters related to the conflicts in Iraq and Lebanon. Steps were taken to enhance understanding of IHL and independent humanitarian action among the authorities, the armed forces and academic institutions.

### EXPENDITURE (IN KCHF)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Protection</td>
<td>98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assistance</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prevention</td>
<td>358</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cooperation with National Societies</td>
<td>287</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>743</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Expenses/Yearly Budget**: 111%

### PERSONNEL

- 1 expatriate
- 3 national staff (daily workers not included)

### IMPLEMENTATION RATE

- Expenditure/yearly budget: 111%

### KEY POINTS

In 2006, the ICRC:
- provided logistical support to ICRC operations in Iraq and Lebanon;
- supported the Turkish authorities in launching a study on the compatibility of existing national legislation with IHL;
- finalized an agreement with the Turkish Red Crescent Society with a view to the introduction of the Exploring Humanitarian Law programme in secondary schools;
- pursued its dialogue with the Turkish authorities on a wide range of issues.
CIVILIANS

Protection activities in relation to the situation in Iraq continued in 2006, including notifying the authorities of the detention of Turkish nationals. Turkish families seeking news of relatives detained/interned abroad were able to send and receive RCMs, and requests to locate family members were processed through the Red Cross Red Crescent tracing network, with ICRC support.

The National Society participated in a regional Movement conference on restoring family links held in Bangkok (see Bangkok), with a view to improving services for families suffering the pain of separation.

AUTHORITIES

The Turkish government accepted the ICRC’s formal offer of assistance in conducting a study on the compatibility of the domestic legal framework with the country’s obligations under IHL. With backing from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, a first multidisciplinary committee meeting was convened in March, followed by the constitution of a core working group comprising representatives of the Ministries of Defence, Foreign Affairs, Justice and the Interior, the National Security Council and the Turkish Red Crescent, under the leadership of the Turkish General Staff. By the end of the year, the working group was preparing a draft report presenting its findings.

Within the framework of Turkey’s efforts to modernize its legal system and reform its criminal law, over 100 civilian and military judges and prosecutors attended in May a training workshop in Istanbul on international criminal justice organized by the Council of Europe with the active participation of the ICRC.

On 7 December, Turkey signed Additional Protocol III.

ARMS FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

As part of ongoing ICRC cooperation with the Partnership for Peace (PfP) Training Centre in Ankara, the Turkish armed forces received training in IHL and related issues, and the ICRC gave presentations at ten different training events.

In line with a memorandum of understanding concluded with NATO, the planning of the Brilliant Ledger II exercise of NATO’s Rapid Deployment Corps in Istanbul was conducted with ICRC input.

To strengthen the capacity of the PfP Training Centre, three Turkish armed forces instructors attended an IHL course in San Remo in May. In November and December, a legal adviser of the Turkish General Staff attended an IHL course for military legal advisers in Vienna, Austria.

Meetings with the chief legal adviser of the Turkish General Staff advanced the process of integrating IHL into the doctrine, training and operating procedures of the armed forces.

The ICRC donated two sets of its study on customary international humanitarian law to the library of the PfP Training Centre and three sets to the office of the chief legal adviser of the Turkish General Staff. An article on customary international humanitarian law, translated into Turkish by a retired military legal adviser, was published in the International Review of the Red Cross.

Civil Society

Integration of the Exploring Humanitarian Law programme into the secondary school curriculum went ahead with the translation of the relevant modules and guidelines into Turkish.

Representatives of the Turkish Red Crescent Society, the Education Ministry and the ICRC attended the European Education Leadership Conference on Exploring Humanitarian Law held in Vienna at the beginning of May.

At the end of May, the minister of education appointed a national coordinator to get the implementation phase of the Exploring Humanitarian Law programme started. In December, the Turkish Red Crescent and the ICRC concluded a cooperation agreement on the programme’s implementation, including the training of teachers.

RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT

In 2006, emphasis was placed on strengthening the independence of the Turkish Red Crescent Society in a process that included the revision of its statutes, internal dissemination of IHL and the Fundamental Principles, and training in the Safer Access approach.

In July, Movement members reached a common understanding on how best to respond to humanitarian needs in Iraq at a coordination meeting hosted by the Turkish Red Crescent in Istanbul. In July and August, the National Society supported the establishment of a logistics base in Mersin, which enabled shipment of humanitarian supplies to Lebanon.
In 2006, the ICRC:

- further developed its dialogue with European Union (EU) institutions through the EU presidency (held by Austria and Finland), the General Secretariat of the Council of the EU, and the European Commission, and by following the work of the European Parliament;
- pursued the high-level dialogue on operational and more general issues between ICRC President Jakob Kellenberger and the Political and Security Committee of the EU;
- organized jointly with the Austrian presidency of the Council of the EU and the youth section of the Austrian Red Cross the European Education Leadership Conference on Exploring Humanitarian Law;
- strengthened its relations with VOICE (Voluntary Organizations in Cooperation in Emergencies), a network representing 90 European humanitarian NGOs, by organizing a round-table on the current challenges facing humanitarian aid.

The ICRC has been working in Brussels since 1999, building strong institutional and operational relations with European Union institutions and with NATO and the NATO Parliamentary Assembly. It is expanding its sphere of activity to include key armed forces based in Western Europe. Its aim is to make the ICRC’s mandate better known, mobilize political, diplomatic and financial support for its activities and ensure that relevant military decision-makers in Western Europe view the ICRC as the main reference point for neutral and independent humanitarian action.

**KEY POINTS**

**CONTEXT**

Despite the rejection by France and the Netherlands of the European Constitution Treaty in 2005, the ratification process continued among member States of the European Union (EU) and future members Bulgaria and Romania, with 18 countries having ratified it by the end of 2006.

In 2006, the EU Council sent a European force to support the UN Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) during the general elections. Among the eight European Security and Defence Policy field operations undertaken in 2005, the Council decided to prolong its Aceh Monitoring Mission until 15 December 2006 and its Rule of Law Mission for the training of Iraqi officials until 31 December 2007. The Council welcomed the prompt response of member States that contributed to reinforcing the UN peacekeeping mission in Lebanon in the aftermath of the conflict between Israel and Hezbollah forces. Preliminary discussions were held on setting up an operation in Kosovo to train the police and bolster the legal system.

The EU continued to support the African Union mission in Darfur, Sudan, until the end of the year.

In December, the European Council agreed to establish a community funding tool to strengthen existing civilian crisis management capacities.

The European Commission, Council and Parliament signed a key document on a coordinated European approach to achieving the UN Millennium Development Goals and another on a strategy to help Africa achieve those goals.

The European Parliament set up a temporary committee to look into allegations concerning the role of European countries in secret inter-State transfers of “terrorist” suspects by the US Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) in the framework of the fight against “terrorism”. The investigation having been completed, the European Parliament planned to adopt the final report in January 2007.

Although the EU suspended financial aid to the Palestinian Authority following the Hamas electoral victory, it supported a proposal to set up a temporary international mechanism to channel aid directly to the Palestinian people. Additionally, the European Commission, through its Directorate-General for Humanitarian Aid (ECHO), transferred EUR 34 million to the Palestinian people and was poised to transfer another EUR 50 million. The European Commission also worked on putting together a EUR 100 million humanitarian aid package for Sudan.

After almost two years of negotiations, the EU failed to find a consensus on the mandate and structure of the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights, expected to become operational on 1 January 2007. The main stumbling block remained the possible extension of the Agency’s competence to cover sensitive matters under the EU’s “third pillar”, such as police cooperation, judicial cooperation in criminal matters and “terrorism”.

**EXPENDITURE (IN KCHF)**

- Protection
- Assistance
- Prevention
- Cooperation with National Societies 107
- General 97
- **1,888**

  of which: Overheads **115**

**IMPLEMENTATION RATE**

Expenditure/yearly budget 90%

**PERSONNEL**

- 2 expatriates
- 9 national staff (daily workers not included)**
NATO’s mandate in Afghanistan and its presence in the Balkans and the Mediterranean were expanded, while its commitments in the Middle East and Africa were strengthened. The Alliance met in Riga, Latvia, to discuss its operations and its relations with non-member countries.

ICRC ACTION

In accordance with its specific mandate, the ICRC continued to focus on enhancing its dialogue with EU institutions on humanitarian aspects of conflict situations, particularly in light of EU progress towards a Common Foreign and Security Policy and the emphasis placed on implementation of the EU Guidelines on promoting compliance with IHL. It maintained a substantive dialogue with the European Commission, in particular ECHO and the other external services, and with the General Secretariat of the Council of the EU. The aim was to ensure that the ICRC’s priorities and analysis of specific issues of humanitarian concern, such as the situations in north and south Caucasus, the Horn of Africa, central and southern Africa, Latin America and the Middle East, were taken into account.

Following publication of the report by former French Foreign Minister Michel Barnier, entitled “For a European civil protection force: Europe aid”, which made recommendations on strengthening European civilian crisis management capacities, the ICRC, in cooperation with the EU National Societies and the International Federation, produced two position papers on the Movement’s role in civilian crisis management.

The ICRC president travelled to Helsinki in May for talks with the Finnish authorities prior to the start of Finland’s presidency of the EU on 1 July.

The ICRC strengthened its formal dialogue on specific operations and general humanitarian issues with NATO’s Supreme Allied Commander, Europe, and pursued its dialogue with the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and the Council of Europe.

AUTHORITIES

EU Council

Issues of common interest were discussed with the General Secretariat of the EU Council and with member States, including IHL in the context of the fight against "terrorism" and weapons of mass destruction, conflict situations worldwide and potential ICRC support to European training programmes for diplomatic, civil and military staff working in the field of EU crisis management.

- members of the Political and Security Committee briefed by President Kellenberger on the ICRC’s humanitarian priorities
- members of the Council's Working Group on Public International Law and geographical working groups briefed on potential ICRC support to promoting compliance with IHL
- EU officials and representatives of EU member States attended a one-day IHL training session
- students from the European Diplomatic Programme briefed on IHL and the ICRC

European Commission

ECHO worked with the ICRC on the implementation of a communication agreement to give visibility to ECHO’s contributions to ICRC activities, organized a joint photo exhibition in Brussels and participated in an IHL moot court competition organized in Ljubljana, Slovenia, by the ICRC.

European Parliament

To ensure that its priorities and analysis of specific issues of humanitarian concern were taken into account, the ICRC attended hearings and debates on issues such as women in armed conflict, the Western Sahara situation and the alleged use of European countries by the CIA for the transportation and illegal detention of "terrorist" suspects.

NATO Parliamentary Assembly

The NATO Parliamentary Assembly was briefed on the ICRC’s mandate and activities and issues of common interest, such as persons unaccounted for in connection with armed conflicts and the Biological Weapons Convention review conference. President Kellenberger delivered his annual address to the Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council.

Council of Europe and OSCE

By attending sessions of selected commissions of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe in Strasbourg, France, the ICRC was able to exchange views with commission members on a range of humanitarian themes, such as persons unaccounted for in the Caucasus and Europe’s response to crises around the world.

Participation in the annual Parliamentary Assembly and Ministerial Council of the OSCE also enabled the ICRC to present its viewpoint on specific humanitarian issues.

ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

In 2006, armed forces personnel based in Western Europe with the potential to be deployed outside Europe in contexts where the ICRC was working (the US European Command, EU military staff, NATO forces and the UK armed forces) were the targets of consolidated ICRC programmes aimed at promoting a better understanding and acceptance of the organization’s mandate and activities. Collective training conducted during pre-mission and other major exercises, as well as at individual officer training events (command and staff colleges, professional development courses and specialist seminars), reinforced knowledge of IHL among these key audiences.

NATO

The expanding NATO mandate in Afghanistan, its presence in the Balkans and the Mediterranean, as well as its growing commitments in the Middle East and Africa, required an enhanced level of dialogue between the Alliance and the ICRC.

Following a visit by NATO’s Supreme Allied Commander, Europe, to ICRC headquarters, relations with NATO’s Joint Forces Command Headquarters were strengthened, resulting in improved coordination of ICRC training support to NATO events. In March and October, members of the International Security Assistance Force were briefed by the ICRC during pre-deployment mission rehearsal exercises prior to departure for Afghanistan to ensure that potential detention activities would be conducted in accordance with IHL.

NATO legal advisers attended a workshop on the ICRC’s study on customary international humanitarian law organized by the Swiss and Italian governments with ICRC support.

EU military staff

The Director-General of the EU Military Staff (EUMS) and the ICRC discussed proposals for the inclusion of humanitarian themes in EUMS training events, including the ICRC’s participation as an observer in future crisis management exercises.

Contacts with the EU mission preparing to deploy to the DRC helped ensure that these
forces understood the role, mandate and activities of the ICRC.

**US European Command**
To achieve a more systematic involvement of the ICRC in US and allied mission rehearsal exercises, coordination between the US Joint Multinational Training Command based in Grafenwöhr, Germany, and the ICRC was stepped up.

A US brigade undertaking pre-mission training at Grafenwöhr prior to deployment in Iraq was briefed on the ICRC’s mandate and activities.

**UK armed forces**
In 2006, the UK armed forces benefited from:

- ICRC support to training courses at the Joint Services Command and Staff College, Shrivenham, at the UK Joint Civil Military Co-operation Group and during selected activities with the senior class at the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst;
- participation of the ICRC in 2 annual exercises conducted by the Permanent Joint Headquarters responsible for all UK overseas deployments and in key senior training exercises of the Land Warfare Centre.

The British Red Cross and the ICRC established a joint approach for the provision of training support to UK armed forces, and the National Society invited the ICRC to present its programmes to the UK NGO-Military Contact Group.

**CIVIL SOCIETY**
Some 60 representatives of NGOs, international organizations and the European Commission attended a round-table organized in December by Voluntary Organizations in Cooperation in Emergencies (VOICE), a network representing 90 European humanitarian NGOs, and the ICRC on the current challenges facing humanitarian aid.

In May, senior Ministry of Education officials from 22 European countries, the ICRC’s vice-president and Movement education experts attended the European Education Leadership Conference on Exploring Humanitarian Law held in Vienna, Austria, to discuss practical ways of introducing the programme into formal secondary education. The conference was jointly organized by the ICRC and the EU Council under the auspices of the Austrian presidency.

The 7th Bruges Colloquium, organized by the College of Europe in Bruges and the ICRC, focused on the role of private military security companies operating in armed conflict situations. Participation in debates and conferences organized by think-tanks enabled the ICRC to share its views on issues of humanitarian concern with a wide range of audiences.

- 90 students from the College of Europe and other universities in the region attended an IHL course

**RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT**
In position papers related to European civil protection reforms, the International Federation and the ICRC underlined the importance of safeguarding the neutral, impartial and independent nature of the Movement’s humanitarian action while working alongside and in a complementary manner with national authorities, UN organizations and NGOs, and asked to be consulted as a more robust EU civil protection capability was being developed.

The Red Cross/EU Office in Brussels, representing and promoting the interests of the National Societies of EU member States and of the International Federation, contributed to making this position known to key stakeholders and decision-makers in Brussels.

Close relations were maintained with the Belgian Red Cross and European National Societies through the Red Cross/EU Office, leading to the ICRC’s participation in various events, such as the Platform for European Red Cross Co-operation on Refugees, Asylum-seekers and Migrants and the European Legal Support Group. The Red Cross/EU Office consulted the ICRC on the protection of migrants and on civil defence issues.
The International Tracing Service (ITS) in Bad Arolsen, Germany, assembles, classifies, preserves and evaluates, for strictly humanitarian purposes, records concerning civilians persecuted during the Third Reich in Germany (1933–45) and non-Germans displaced as a result of the Second World War up until 1951. The ITS searches for missing persons and issues certificates to civilians who suffered incarceration or forced labour and are eligible for financial compensation, as well as to their legal successors. The institution, set up under the Bonn Agreements of 1955, is run by an ICRC-appointed director and is supervised by a commission comprising 11 member States.

In 2006, the ITS remained an invaluable resource for civilians persecuted under the Third Reich and requesting official recognition of their persecution. To this end, the centre kept an archive of documents which it consulted before issuing legally binding certificates attesting to the persecution. In order to ensure that the data contained in the records were preserved for future generations, a programme was begun to convert the information to a digital form. The ITS also worked to conserve and restore the paper documents.

The main topic on the agenda of the May 2006 meeting of the International Commission for the ITS in Luxembourg was the adoption of two protocols additional to the 1955 Bonn Agreements, providing for the opening of the archives to historical research, whether in Bad Arolsen or through digitized copies to be made available to member States.

### Key Points
- In 2006, the ITS:
  - added more than 439,000 new names to its central databank;
  - issued 280,311 replies in the form of reports, lists and excerpts from documents;
  - reduced the backlog of unprocessed enquiries from 407,065 to 194,872;
  - undertook a major internal reorganization and in-depth review of its working methods;
  - prepared for the opening of the archives to historical research as soon as the two protocols additional to the 1955 Bonn Agreements come into force.

### Context
The ITS has been directed and administered by the ICRC and supervised by representatives of the member States of the International Commission (Belgium, France, Germany, Greece, Israel, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Poland, the United Kingdom and the United States of America) since 1955.
ITS ACTION

CIVILIANS

The ITS continued to serve as an essential point of contact for people who had suffered persecution under the Third Reich and who wished to have official recognition of it. It continued to gather, file, preserve and process records and kept an archive of documents referring to the victims of the National Socialist regime (more than 30 million original documents). In 2006, the ITS received more than 439,000 additional names. When the centre was able to confirm that an individual had indeed suffered deportation, internment or forced labour, it issued a certificate attesting to the persecution.

In 2006, the ITS received a total of 244,364 new requests and gave 280,311 replies to these and other requests received earlier. The centre also reduced its backlog of unprocessed enquiries from 407,065 to 194,872.

In order to preserve the historically precious documents stored in its archives for future generations, the ITS undertook conservation and restoration work. In 2003, the ITS began working systematically on larger stocks of concentration camp documents, according to a list of priorities. Over 1.46 million documents have been conserved and restored since the beginning of the process.

On 16 May 2006, the 11 member States of the International Commission adopted two protocols additional to the 1955 Bonn Agreements that provide for the opening of the ITS archives to historical research, both on site and through digitized copies of the archives to be made available to member States. The additional protocols would enter into force upon ratification by the 11 member States.

Between July and December 2006, numerous steps were taken to ensure that the ITS would be able to welcome historians as soon as the additional protocols enter into force. Similarly, the digitization process accelerated in order to ensure that the copies of all wartime documents pertaining to detention, transfer and deportation would be ready by the next meeting of the International Commission in May 2007. Work flow was also revised in order to ensure that any new application submitted by a victim of Nazi persecution or his or her family would receive a response within a two-month period, provided the response could be based exclusively on the holdings of the ITS and did not require consulting other institutions. A new public communication unit was set up to improve internal and external communication.

The digitization of the ITS central index of names (50 million references with information on 17.5 million people) was completed at the end of 1999. The databank, which became operational in the second half of 2000, secured information and made it possible to check a considerable quantity of data electronically rather than manually and thus to respond more quickly to requests for information and certificates. By the end of 2006, the ITS had scanned 62% of the paper documentation. Approximately half of the entire information was searchable. As regards the concentration camp section, 96% of the holdings were digitized, while 76% of this information was indexed and is therefore searchable.

The executive board of the State Archives in Warsaw, Poland, suspended the permission previously granted for filming work there pending clarification of the details of the opening of the archives in Bad Arolsen and transfer of copies to member States of the International Commission.

With the agreement of the 11 member States of the International Commission, the ICRC appointed a new ITS director, who took up the post on 15 December 2006.
In 2006, an ICRC spokesperson was posted to London to work with the British Red Cross, mainly in the areas of media relations and communication. The aim is to develop contacts with London-based media and institutions with an international scope so as to gain a better understanding of how they perceive problems and activities of a humanitarian nature in the regions they cover; to heighten understanding of and support for ICRC operations and the activities of the Movement in those regions; and to secure broader support for the implementation of IHL.

**CONTEXT**

As one of the world’s foremost media centres, London remained a focal point for international debate on current global issues. It was also home to a large number of news organizations with worldwide reach and a high concentration of foreign media from all continents, including all major transnational satellite broadcasters.

Issues and debates surrounding the deteriorating situation in Iraq featured regularly in the media, as did the conflict in Afghanistan, where the NATO force under UK command undertook an increasingly difficult mission in its first land deployment outside Europe. The United Kingdom remained at the forefront of the debate on relations between indigenous and immigrant populations, particularly Muslims, with implications for governmental institutions and both public and private organizations.
ICRC ACTION

The ICRC consolidated its network of media contacts to encourage journalists to give prominence to humanitarian concerns while reporting on conflicts around the world. It endeavoured both to raise awareness of and to strengthen support for IHL among decision-makers, opinion-leaders and the public. It also drew attention to the challenges currently facing independent and neutral humanitarian action in certain conflict situations.

The ICRC in London, working closely with the British Red Cross, fulfilled its objectives by responding to queries from the media, meeting journalists and taking part in panel discussions on topics directly related to the ICRC’s international operations.

The ICRC spokesperson was invited to be a member of the Experts Board established by the BBC World Service Trust to review the operation of its newly established Al Mirbad radio station in Basra, Iraq, with a staff made up exclusively of Iraqis. Moreover, the ICRC spokesperson participated in meetings to develop a new research programme at the Royal Institute of International Affairs (Chatham House) analysing the future of military and humanitarian interventions.

As an Arabic-speaking delegate, the ICRC spokesperson was deployed at short notice to Lebanon. Thus, there was no ICRC delegate in London for the last four months of the year.

CIVIL SOCIETY

Thanks to continuous contact with the ICRC, the media increasingly recognized the centrality of IHL as the law of reference for the protection of victims of armed conflict.

The UK press largely supported the cause of IHL and took the government to task on every alleged occurrence of mistreatment of detainees or civilians in the course of military operations abroad. Reporting on the Red Cross in the UK media was generally favourable and no contentious or sensitive issues were raised in its regard. Discussions were engaged by the ICRC on a number of websites relating to situations of conflict worldwide to redress errors in comments published about the ICRC and its operations.

A large number of UK academic institutions continued to dedicate programmes to the teaching of IHL, and students frequently contacted the ICRC spokesperson in London to ask for specific viewpoints on the ICRC qualification of conflicts, the applicability of IHL and the challenges facing its implementation and respect by parties to armed conflicts.

The Open University launched a new course on “War, intervention and development” serving an international network of students, while the Royal Institute of International Affairs set up a research programme on “The future of interventions: achieving human security in an era of insecurity”. Both institutions consulted the ICRC spokesperson in London, and these ventures provided opportunities to argue the case for IHL with future decision-makers.

In May, the London School of Economics hosted its annual public panel discussion organized in cooperation with the ICRC. Debate on this occasion focused on the need for a legal framework regulating participation of private security companies in military action and peacekeeping operations overseas.

The All-Party Parliamentary Group and similar bodies invited the ICRC spokesperson to give presentations on the role of the ICRC in specific areas of armed conflict.

The ICRC and the British Red Cross worked together to promote neutral and independent humanitarian action.

The ICRC seconded a protection delegate to the National Society to provide advice on and support to the programme of visits to asylum seekers in places of detention in the UK.
In 2006, the ICRC:
- remained in close contact with the French government, mainly with the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Defence and the Presidency, to discuss ICRC operations and matters of humanitarian concern;
- maintained a network of contacts with individuals and established institutions in France able to influence decisions and dialogue on humanitarian action;
- continued to promote IHL, particularly among members of the armed forces and academic circles;
- maintained a close working relationship with leading French NGOs and the French Red Cross to keep humanitarian issues high on the public agenda.

The Paris delegation, set up in 2000, focuses on promoting IHL, pursuing humanitarian diplomacy and facilitating ICRC operations in the field. Its target audiences include the French authorities, representatives of the French-speaking world, economic interest groups, the media, the diplomatic community, military and academic circles and the French Red Cross.

CONTEXT

As a permanent member of the UN Security Council and one of the main architects of the European Union, combined with its status as an economic power hosting numerous multinational companies, France continued to be a major player in international affairs. It played a crucial role in brokering a cease-fire in Lebanon following the conflict there in July–August, helped monitor Lebanon’s coastline, supplied troops to the UN Interim Force in Lebanon, led by French Major-General Alain Pellegrini, and sent tonnes of emergency relief supplies to the conflict-affected population. The French government also gave strong backing to Mahmoud Abbas, President of the Palestinian Authority.

Given its large Arabic-speaking community and its traditionally close ties with many African countries, France was an important venue for humanitarian diplomacy, offering useful opportunities for mediation on behalf of conflict victims in parts of Africa and the Middle East.

French politics became increasingly polarized in the second half of the year as campaigning for presidential elections scheduled for April–May 2007 picked up momentum.

EXPENDITURE (IN KCHF)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
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<tr>
<td>Protection</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assistance</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prevention</td>
<td>884</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cooperation with National Societies</td>
<td>115</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,046</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

_of which: Overheads 64

IMPLEMENTATION RATE

Expenditure/yearly budget 92%

PERSONNEL

1 expatriate
4 national staff (daily workers not included)
ICRC ACTION

Over the year, the Paris delegation remained a key element in the ICRC’s network for humanitarian diplomacy, through which the organization sought to gain support for its operations in the field, promote IHL, increase understanding of its mandate and stimulate debate on issues of humanitarian concern. In France, this network included the French authorities, foreign opposition movements based in the country, NGOs, the media, think-tanks and opinion-makers.

The delegation continued to give IHL presentations to the armed forces and kept in contact with the French-language media. It also worked on various projects aimed at improving the public’s grasp of humanitarian issues and the ICRC’s mandate and activities.

AUTHORITIES

The French authorities, including the Presidency, the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Justice and Defence, and parliament, held in-depth discussions with the ICRC on operational issues related to Afghanistan (particularly the need for the International Security Assistance Force deployed there to conduct potential detention activities in accordance with IHL), the Caucasus, Colombia, Darfur (Sudan), Iraq and West Africa. Special emphasis was placed on emerging crises in the Central African Republic, Chad, Lebanon and Somalia. Discussions also centred on the draft Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism being deliberated by the UN and the need for domestic legislation to include the repression of war crimes, in line with the Rome Statute.

ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

Pursuant to an agreement signed with the Ministry of Defence in 2002, members of the gendarmerie due for deployment outside France, as well as air force cadets, continued to be briefed on IHL. Over the year, some 1,500 military personnel attended such sessions. Moreover, various military schools and academies, including the Collège Interarmées de Défense, the Ecole Supérieure de la Marine and the Séminaire Interarmées des Grandes Ecoles Militaires, were given presentations on IHL and the ICRC’s mandate and activities. Legal advisers to the Ministry of Defence attended training in IHL.

CIVIL SOCIETY

Five major French NGOs – Action contre la Faim, Handicap International, Médecins du Monde, Médecins Sans Frontières and Première Urgence – joined forces with the French Red Cross and the ICRC to keep humanitarian issues firmly on the public agenda, particularly the need to protect and assist victims of armed conflict. Together, they organized a series of public debates in November, attended by over 300 people, on the new challenges facing humanitarian organizations in conflict situations. Some 30 high-profile personalities working in the humanitarian field discussed, among other issues, ways of dealing with the severe constraints placed on humanitarian action in contexts such as Afghanistan, Darfur and Iraq, as well as the appearance of new kinds of humanitarian actors, such as multinationals.

The production of a book based on the ICRC’s “Women and War” photo exhibition was suspended owing to as yet unresolved publishing issues. The book was to illustrate the lives of 11 women in as many conflict zones and was to be officially launched in March 2007 to coincide with International Women’s Day.

During the conflict in Lebanon in July–August, a communication delegate based in Paris was seconded to Cyprus to liaise with the national and international press covering the conflict in order to highlight the plight of the victims.

Every opportunity was taken to continue promoting the principles of IHL among the French and French-language media, as well as universities and academic institutions, such as the Institut d’Etudes Politiques in Paris, the Centre international d’administration publique and the Ecole nationale d’administration, through training workshops, information sessions and the distribution of press releases and publications.

RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT

ICRC President Jakob Kellenberger visited the new headquarters of the French Red Cross and held discussions with its Board of Directors. The French Red Cross and the ICRC worked closely on the organization of a public event on the role of humanitarian organizations in conflict situations.
In 2006, the ICRC:

- together with the Colombian Red Cross, provided food, food vouchers and essential household items, and supported agricultural projects, benefiting more than 63,000 residents affected by the conflict and newly displaced people; completed and initiated water and sanitation projects benefiting some 8,000 people;
- together with the Ministry of Health, conducted 5 workshops on the clinical management of patients with weapon wounds and one war-surgery seminar for civilian and military surgeons;
- documented 1,217 alleged IHL violations, including cases of sexual violence, made 243 written and oral representations to weapon bearers regarding such violations and assisted 1,728 victims of threats;
- launched a comprehensive mine-action programme in the framework of an integrated partnership with the Norwegian Red Cross;
- followed the individual cases of 4,504 people detained in connection with the conflict and completed, together with the national penitentiary authorities, a survey of health services in 60 places of permanent detention;
- assisted the armed forces in conducting 2 “after action reviews” to evaluate specific military operations from the perspective of compliance with IHL; with the Colombian Red Cross, assisted police contingents involved in military operations in integrating IHL into their training curricula.

The ICRC has been working in Colombia since 1969, striving to secure greater compliance with IHL by all armed groups – particularly regarding the protection of persons not taking part in the conflict – and promoting its integration into the doctrine, training and operational procedures of the Colombian armed forces. The ICRC also visits security detainees, provides emergency relief to IDPs and other victims of the conflict and implements public health programmes and small-scale infrastructure rehabilitation projects in conflict-affected areas. It works with the Colombian Red Cross Society and other members of the Movement to coordinate humanitarian activities in Colombia’s conflict-affected regions.

President Alvaro Uribe’s re-election in May 2006 and the earlier consolidation of his party’s majority in Congress following legislative elections in March further strengthened his position.

Talks conducted throughout the year between representatives of the Colombian government and the National Liberation Army (ELN) made significant progress. However, hopes of the implementation of a “humanitarian accord” involving the release of people held by the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) in exchange for the release of detained FARC members were dashed when a car bomb exploded on the premises of a military school in Bogotá on 19 October, wounding 23 people. The government accused the FARC of being behind the bombing, while the FARC denied any involvement.

In July, the High Commissioner for Peace declared that the demobilization of paramilitary groups had been largely completed. However, the legal framework surrounding the process, namely the Justice and Peace Law, was called into question, with the Constitutional Court ruling that some of the law’s provisions were unconstitutional. According to official figures, some 30,000 former members of paramilitary forces had handed in their weapons by July 2006. About 20 of their leaders, who surrendered in August, were placed in a holding centre in Antioquia. Their subsequent transfer to a high-security prison near Medellín provoked a major crisis in the peace process. Meanwhile, newly formed armed groups, calling themselves self-defence groups, emerged, their activities prompting further displacement. In December, the arrest of local politicians, senators, members of congress and former government officials, all accused of harbouring links with the paramilitaries, rocked the political establishment.

Fighting persisted throughout the year in various regions, especially in the south, as well as in Arauca, Antioquia, Chocó, Tolima and Meta-Guaviare, leading to increased displacements.

The number of casualties from mines and other explosive remnants of war (ERW) continued to rise.
The ICRC shared its analysis of the country’s humanitarian situation with the relevant authorities. It maintained an ongoing dialogue with all the parties to the conflict to seek respect for the civilian population in accordance with IHL and to secure unhindered access to conflict-affected areas.

The ICRC concentrated its field activities in some 20 priority zones where needs were greatest, providing food and essential household items to IDPs and residents. It also worked to improve access to health services in these areas through a flexible range of options, including dispensing curative medical care, directing beneficiaries to government health facilities, accompanying Ministry of Health personnel on their rounds and running mobile health units in conjunction with partner National Societies.

In 2006, the delegation fine-tuned the implementation of its strategic approach, seeking external advice in assessing the impact of its activities in priority zones and in developing operational guidelines to further improve the quality of its field work.

In line with its overall strategy of encouraging public services to take greater responsibility for the provision of health care to IDPs and residents, the ICRC explained to IDPs and residents their rights under Colombian legislation and, when necessary, directed them to existing health structures.

While keeping up direct distributions of food and essential household items to IDPs, the ICRC developed a food voucher programme in Bogotá and Medellín so as to better address the needs of newly arrived IDPs. Its success prompted the government’s Social Solidarity Network (Acción Social) to make plans to replicate the scheme in its own assistance programmes countrywide.

WFP and the ICRC launched a survey of the socio-economic situation of IDPs in eight cities around the country, starting with Medellín. The findings were to be shared with the authorities concerned so that they could develop programmes more suited to IDPs’ long-term needs.

The delegation continued visits to places of detention throughout the country, monitoring the treatment and living conditions of more than 7,000 detainees. It worked closely with the national penitentiary authorities (INPEC), completing a survey of health services in prisons, on the basis of which recommendations were to be made to the Colombian authorities.

Following renewed interest from the authorities in addressing the issue of enforced disappearances, a new public policy was put in place in 2006 for which the ICRC’s input was requested. As a result, three conferences on the issue of missing persons were held. The ICRC provided its expertise, particularly in the field of forensic medicine, and submitted a report on the issue to the Office of the Vice-President.

During a series of internal workshops in each of the ICRC’s five sub-delegations, communication strategies designed to reinforce acceptance of the ICRC’s humanitarian work by all parties to the conflict and groups concerned were streamlined and adapted to local contexts and audiences.

The ICRC assisted the Colombian Red Cross in finalizing its national development plan. Together, the two organizations launched an overall review of the mine and ERW situation with a view to developing a flexible approach aimed at preventing accidents and reducing the socio-economic impact of mine/ERW contamination.

The ICRC attended a meeting of the newly established Inter-Agency Standing Committee in Colombia, set up to contribute to better coordination of humanitarian action in the country.

**CIVILIANS**

**Protection**

The number of alleged IHL violations (1,217) documented by the delegation in 2006 was comparable to the numbers reported in the previous year, with disappearances (347) and targeted executions (274) representing the bulk of cases and with hostage-taking (122) continuing to decline. Twenty-eight allegations of sexual violence perpetrated by weapon bearers were also documented.

Community leaders and even entire communities (particularly of indigenous or Afro-Colombian origin) were subjected to an increasing number of threats, especially during the second half of the year, leading to their displacement or flight to neighbouring countries. Armed groups continued to control access to certain areas to monitor population movements and the circulation of goods, including medical supplies. Medical staff were often directly targeted (25 alleged cases), restricting the population’s access to health care in some conflict-affected areas. The number of civilians affected by mines and ERW remained a concern, as did the murder of IDPs and demobilized combatants who had sought refuge in cities. Some 400 families who faced economic hardship as a result of such targeted assassinations received financial assistance to pay for funeral and transportation costs.

**Others**

**ICRC ACTION**

While keeping up direct distributions of food and essential household items to IDPs, the ICRC developed a food voucher programme in Bogotá and Medellín as to better address the needs of newly arrived IDPs. Its success prompted the government’s Social Solidarity Network (Acción Social) to make plans to replicate the scheme in its own assistance programmes countrywide.

The ICRC concentrated its field activities in some 20 priority zones where needs were greatest, providing food and essential household items to IDPs and residents. It also worked to improve access to health services in these areas through a flexible range of options, including dispensing curative medical care, directing beneficiaries to government health facilities, accompanying Ministry of Health personnel on their rounds and running mobile health units in conjunction with partner National Societies.

In 2006, the delegation fine-tuned the implementation of its strategic approach, seeking external advice in assessing the impact of its activities in priority zones and in developing operational guidelines to further improve the quality of its field work.

In line with its overall strategy of encouraging public services to take greater responsibility for the provision of health care to IDPs and residents in isolated rural areas, the ICRC explained to IDPs and residents their rights under Colombian legislation and, when necessary, directed them to existing health structures.

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WFP and the ICRC launched a survey of the socio-economic situation of IDPs in eight cities around the country, starting with Medellín. The findings were to be shared with the authorities concerned so that they could develop programmes more suited to IDPs’ long-term needs.

The delegation continued visits to places of detention throughout the country, monitoring the treatment and living conditions of more than 7,000 detainees. It worked closely with the national penitentiary authorities (INPEC), completing a survey of health services in prisons, on the basis of which recommendations were to be made to the Colombian authorities.

Following renewed interest from the authorities in addressing the issue of enforced disappearances, a new public policy was put in place in 2006 for which the ICRC’s input was requested. As a result, three conferences on the issue of missing persons were held. The ICRC provided its expertise, particularly in the field of forensic medicine, and submitted a report on the issue to the Office of the Vice-President.

During a series of internal workshops in each of the ICRC’s five sub-delegations, communication strategies designed to reinforce acceptance of the ICRC’s humanitarian work by all parties to the conflict and groups concerned were streamlined and adapted to local contexts and audiences.

The ICRC assisted the Colombian Red Cross in finalizing its national development plan. Together, the two organizations launched an overall review of the mine and ERW situation with a view to developing a flexible approach aimed at preventing accidents and reducing the socio-economic impact of mine/ERW contamination.

The ICRC attended a meeting of the newly established Inter-Agency Standing Committee in Colombia, set up to contribute to better coordination of humanitarian action in the country.
In all, 243 representations were made to weapon bearers regarding violations of IHL. Armed groups released six people they had been holding, with the ICRC providing logistical assistance to facilitate their transport home. Over 1,700 victims of threats were given material assistance and help in reaching safer areas. Victims of sexual violence were also assisted or directed to appropriate health structures.

Some cases of forced recruitment were documented in 2006. Four children associated with fighting forces and handed over to the ICRC were brought to the Colombian Institute of Family Welfare (ICBF) for psychological counselling. Another eight placed with the ICBF were able to locate their families with ICRC support.

**Persons unaccounted for in connection with the conflict**

Significant progress was made in 2006 on the issue of persons missing in connection with the conflict. Within the framework of the Justice and Peace Law, the National Reparation and Reconciliation Commission placed the issue at the top of its agenda, strengthening the role of the National Commission on Missing Persons (Comisión Nacional de Búsqueda), which submitted a plan to improve coordination among all concerned stakeholders, including those working in the field of forensic medicine. The Justice and Peace Law, which provided for lighter sentences for demobilized members of opposition and paramilitary groups who confessed spontaneously, elicited some confessions, leading to the location of many mass graves.

Government entities working on the issue of missing persons received advice and recommendations from the ICRC; associations of families of missing persons were counselled and supported.

Information was obtained from armed groups regarding 34 cases of enforced disappearance, leading in some instances to the recovery of human remains, thus allowing some families to complete the grieving process.

- 112 RCMs collected from and 83 distributed to civilians
- new tracing requests registered for 485 people (79 females, 78 minors at the time of disappearance); 106 people located;
- 391 people (52 females, 42 minors at the time of disappearance) still being sought

**Economic security**

**IDPs**

Compared with 2005, displacement increased significantly in 2006. Emergency assistance to IDPs, consisting of food rations for up to three months (up to six months for single-headed households) and essential household items, was provided by Acción Social, international NGOs and the ICRC. Displaced individuals in the cities of Bucaramanga, Pereira, Sincelejo, and Villavicencio received assistance from the Colombian Red Cross and the ICRC. A voucher programme launched in November 2005 in Bogotá was extended to the city of Medellín.

The mid- and long-term needs of IDPs remained largely unmet. However, the government and humanitarian organizations continued to shift the focus of assistance to helping IDPs recover their self-sufficiency, encouraged by the ICRC, which regularly monitored the IDPs’ socio-economic situation and helped to tailor emergency kits to their needs.

After completing a pilot test in one neighbourhood of Bogotá as part of a joint initiative aimed at collecting relevant data to improve the situation of IDPs, WFP and the ICRC launched a similar survey in Medellin, prior to extending it to seven other cities.

Various State entities increased their support to IDPs in 17 reception centres thanks to a plan of action agreed by Acción Social and the ICRC. Cooperation among the members of an interagency committee, comprising Acción Social, the IOM, UNHCR and the ICRC, was instrumental in achieving this goal.

- 54,486 IDPs (12,940 households) received food
- 7,702 IDPs (1,890 households) benefited from a food voucher programme
- 716 IDPs (168 households) benefited from agricultural projects
- 62,428 IDPs (14,900 households) received essential household items

**Conflict-affected residents**

Resident populations living in remote areas remained exposed to threats and intimidation by armed groups. Security constraints prevented State institutions from providing services in these areas. Moreover, residents sometimes faced restrictions on their movements and the circulation of goods such as food, fuel and building materials.

- 3,690 residents (843 households) in ICRC priority zones provided with food and 1,448 (305 households) with essential household items on an ad hoc basis
- 2,646 residents (560 households) benefited from agricultural projects

**Health care for IDPs and conflict-affected residents**

Health authorities were encouraged to provide health care to IDPs and residents in conflict-affected areas, with emphasis on immunization and reproductive health services. Patients were referred to health centres and hospitals as a result of the ICRC’s increased understanding of the national health system. According to national legislation, IDPs and residents in conflict areas were entitled to public health services, whether or not they were registered in the national health insurance system. In 231 instances where certain medicines and the cost of accommodation and transport of IDPs were not covered by the national health system, the ICRC stepped in on an ad hoc basis. The same was done for residents, whenever necessary. Furthermore, an agreement was signed with Profamilia, a private Colombian organization dealing with family planning and sexual and reproductive health, to provide medical and psychological support to victims of conflict-related sexual violence. In 2006, 17 people (including 3 adolescent males) benefited from the programme.

Weapon-wounded and sick civilians living in rural areas affected by the conflict continued to receive medical assistance from mobile health units supported through partnerships with the Red Cross Societies of Canada, Norway and Sweden. Local medical teams and health brigades were able to access isolated areas accompanied by ICRC delegates who, prior to such missions, obtained security guarantees from armed groups operating in the area. In rural districts where security constraints prevented the deployment of public health staff, local medical personnel attended 43 information sessions on their rights and obligations under IHL when carrying out their work.

The Colombian and French Red Cross Societies, the International Federation and the ICRC worked together to increase community awareness of reproductive health, immunization and the risks of HIV/AIDS, including by producing a leaflet on HIV/AIDS prevention.
In the 23 ICRC-supported health centres (catchment population: 595,684):

- 8,643 consultations (290 ante-/postnatal, 8,353 curative, of which 4,584 to women) were given;
- 5,505 vaccine doses were administered (2,605 to children aged five or under and 2,900 to women of childbearing age);
- 822 health sessions held.

Community infrastructure projects
A total of 32 projects involving improvements to water and sanitation systems and the construction/rehabilitation of schools, health centres and productive facilities were completed by December and another 21 were in progress.

- 1,493 people provided with access to improved quality and quantity of water
- 2,407 people benefited from completed (1,533 people) and ongoing (874 people) projects improving basic sanitation facilities
- 4,542 children benefited from completed (2,792 children) and ongoing (1,750 children) projects improving basic shelter and sanitation facilities in schools
- 200 people were participating in a project to improve coffee drying facilities

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

A reform of the judicial system initiated in 2005, which reduced the amount of time spent by detainees under investigation in places of detention, led to a significant decrease in the official overcrowding rates in prisons in 2006. Moreover, with the construction under way of 12 to 15 new facilities for 28,000 inmates, the trend seemed likely to continue.

INPEC continued to run community health programmes independently. With the ICRC, it completed a survey in 60 detention centres to improve the planning and delivery of health services for detainees. Medical personnel attended two seminars organized by the ICRC and UNAIDS on the diagnosis and treatment of tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS in detention. To mark HIV/AIDS day, INPEC organized prevention activities in prisons with ICRC support.

Following a successful pilot project pioneered in three detention centres by the medical faculty of Pereira’s Technical University (UTP), involving the provision of free health services to detainees by medical students eager for training opportunities, the ICRC facilitated the extension of the project to three more prisons with two other universities.

Efforts to obtain access to people held by armed opposition groups continued without success. However, the ICRC facilitated the handover to their families or the authorities of four captured policemen and a soldier released by armed opposition groups.

- 7,295 detainees visited, 4,504 monitored individually (including 2,233 newly registered, of whom 181 women) during 671 visits to 365 places of detention
- 1,835 detainees visited by their relatives with the support of the ICRC
- 23 RCMs collected from and 43 distributed to detainees
- 4 medical facilities refurbished and 200 detainees fitted with ortho-prosthetic appliances based on a cost-sharing agreement between INPEC and the ICRC

WOUNDED AND SICK

In 2006, the Observatorio de Minas, the national mine-action body, registered more than 1,000 victims of mines and ERW, one-third of whom were civilians. Victims of mines, ERW and other weapons were able to access hospitals and physical rehabilitation centres, and their transport, accommodation, medical fees and treatment were covered by the ICRC.

A total of 150 national health staff in Medellin, Cali, Bucaramanga, Barranquilla and Bogotá attended one-week workshops, organized by the Ministry of Health and the ICRC, on the clinical management of patients with weapon wounds, with special emphasis on mine victims.

In addition, 80 civilian and military surgeons participated in the first war-surgery seminar held in Bogotá, organized by the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Defence and the ICRC, to share expertise on surgical techniques in the treatment of victims of mines/ERW and other weapons.

With ICRC support, two Colombian technicians travelled to the ICRC prosthetic/orthotic training centre in Managua, Nicaragua, to upgrade their skills and improve the quality of services in Colombian physical rehabilitation centres.

- 201 mine victims, 64 ERW victims and 97 patients with other kinds of weapon wounds supported
- 3 physical rehabilitation centres supplied with prosthetic/orthotic appliances and with polypropylene for the production of 200 prostheses

AUTHORITIES

Although Colombia had ratified most IHL treaties, close contacts with the Colombian authorities confirmed the continued applicability of Article 3 common to the four Geneva Conventions of 1949 and of Additional Protocol II to the situation in Colombia, which the ICRC qualified as a non-international armed conflict. Meetings with government officials also focused on the need to ratify Protocol V to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons on explosive remnants of war, the Convention’s amended Article 1, and the Second Protocol to the Hague Convention on Cultural Property.

ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

The armed forces continued to receive technical support from the ICRC in making IHL an integral and permanent part of their doctrine, training and operating procedures. Meetings with Ministry of Defence officials resulted in the revision of teaching materials to facilitate the practical application of IHL principles in the conduct of hostilities. Two “after action review” sessions conducted with the ICRC enabled the armed forces to evaluate specific military operations from the perspective of compliance with IHL.

Police commanders and instructors worked closely with the ICRC to draft an instructor’s reference guide integrating IHL principles, to be used widely by police special forces participating in military operations. The first version of another teaching guide relative to the practical application of IHL in operational training procedures was completed.

- some 5,900 members of the armed forces and 1,500 members of the national police and its special forces attended dissemination sessions on the ICRC’s mandate and activities
- some 70 members of armed opposition groups attended dissemination sessions on basic humanitarian principles and the ICRC’s mandate and activities
CIVIL SOCIETY

Some 100 journalists in Colombia attended three seminars on IHL principles, while contacts with the Spanish-speaking media in the United States helped to publicize the plight of conflict-affected Colombians among North American audiences. A photo exhibition on the topic toured 30 Colombian cities and towns, as well as cities in Argentina, Canada, Mexico, Norway and Sweden.

University lecturers attended a workshop on the psychological and social consequences of the armed conflict, and some 30 lecturers and 115 university students providing IDPs with free legal assistance learned about the role of IHL in the conflict.

Staff members of 20 national and international humanitarian organizations were briefed on the ICRC’s guide to addressing the needs of women affected by armed conflicts.

Representatives of the oil industry were encouraged to incorporate humanitarian issues related to the Colombian conflict into employee training programmes conducted in the framework of the Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights, a programme developed by Western governments, multinationals and NGOs to guide companies in balancing safety requirements with respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms.

RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT

In order to design a plan of action to improve the security of staff and volunteers, the Meta and Tolima branches of the Colombian Red Cross, with ICRC technical and financial support, initiated an assessment of the security situation based on the Safer Access approach.

The Colombian Red Cross, with ICRC support, also strengthened its dissemination/communication departments countrywide and developed distance-learning modules for its staff and volunteers on institutional doctrine, IHL and mental health.

The Colombian Red Cross finalized its national development plan with support from the International Federation and the ICRC, but postponed the revision of its statutes until 2007. Movement components in Colombia agreed to establish a Movement coordination system.

In 2006, the ICRC and the Colombian Red Cross launched an overall review of the mine and ERW situation in Colombia in order to develop a broad and flexible approach aimed at preventing accidents and reducing the socio-economic impact of mine/ERW contamination. Mine-risk education activities were extended to three new departments: Arauca, Bolivar and Cesar. In spite of security constraints (mainly in Meta and Norte Santander), mine-action monitors from the Colombian Red Cross carried out 87 visits to mine/ERW-affected communities and developed mine-risk education activities in 29 of these. The Colombian Red Cross developed new materials and methodologies for mine-risk education programming.

- 15 Colombian Red Cross branch staff attended a national communication workshop
- 400 volunteers trained in IHL dissemination methodologies for children; over 30,000 children made aware of basic IHL principles
- 105 volunteers in 7 branches and 5 staff members trained in conducting mine-risk education sessions for various audiences, including teachers and community leaders
KEY POINTS

In 2006, the ICRC:

- monitored conditions in 29 places of detention, including police stations, taking appropriate measures to stem an outbreak of beriberi;
- completed the refurbishment of 53 water distribution points in Cité Soleil and continued to provide technical support to local authorities responsible for water distribution and rubbish collection to enable them to maintain those services in the shantytown;
- helped the Cité Soleil branch of the Haitian Red Cross evacuate wounded and sick people and continued to enhance the capacity of the National Society to respond to the humanitarian consequences of natural disasters and internal disturbances by providing it with, among other things, first-aid kits;
- maintained a regular dialogue with all the different weapon-bearers, including UN peacekeepers, the Haitian police and armed gangs to promote respect for basic humanitarian norms and ensure safe access for Red Cross workers to victims of armed violence;
- following a sustained dialogue with successive Haitian governments, welcomed Haiti’s accession to Additional Protocols I and II.

CONTEXT

Presidential and parliamentary elections, postponed several times, finally took place in February, followed by municipal elections in December. President René Préval’s priority was to achieve reasonable levels of security and stability, preconditions for boosting the economy and launching social programmes for marginalized sectors of the population. A poverty-alleviation programme designed by his government – the Social Appeasement Programme – was set up to attract international funding but was slow in getting off the ground. In 2006, the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund classified Haiti as one of 11 countries eligible for debt relief under the Enhanced Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative. More than two-thirds of Haiti’s annual budget was being funded by foreign aid.

Violence and kidnappings decreased significantly after the elections, only to increase again in the second half of the year. Armed violence, usually limited to specific areas of the capital, such as Cité Soleil, the most violence-prone shantytown, started spreading to other neighbourhoods.

The mandate of the UN Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) was extended until 15 February 2007. A remodelled version of a disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programme failed to reach its objectives. The government and MINUSTAH agreed in August on a plan of action to reform the Haitian police.
ICRC ACTION

The ICRC delegation continued to focus on assisting victims of armed violence by supporting the local branch of the Haitian Red Cross in Cité Soleil, one of the metropolitan shantytowns most affected by the activities of armed groups, and by intensifying its dialogue with all groups involved in the violence. The ICRC also monitored more closely the circumstances in which the Haitian police and MINUSTAH resorted to force. It reinforced contacts with political leaders and members of civil society to present ICRC activities and discuss the humanitarian situation.

A water and sanitation project initiated in 2005 reversed to some extent the increasing marginalization of the shantytown’s residents as communal water fountains and pumping stations were repaired and rubbish collection resumed. The project also helped to protect lives, because when water was not available near their homes, children were sent out to fetch it, risking getting caught in the crossfire between rival groups. Furthermore, lack of water exacerbated tensions as it had become a scarce resource to be fought over.

The ICRC continued individual visits to detainees arrested in connection with internal disturbances and to monitor the detention conditions of all detainees. In collaboration with the authorities, the ICRC refurbished/upgraded water systems and kitchens and improved warehousing logistics and management to keep better track of food stocks in the prisons of Port-au-Prince, Cap Haïtien and Anse-à-Veau. It also trained local prison health staff.

Together with the International Federation and partner National Societies, the ICRC strengthened the organizational structure and technical capacities of the Haitian Red Cross. Volunteers from the National Society received training from the ICRC and the International Federation to prepare for the hurricane season (May to October), and a VHF radio system was installed to enhance communications during emergencies.

CIVILIANS

An ongoing dialogue was maintained with armed groups, as well as with the national police force and MINUSTAH, which conducted forceful operations in shantytowns such as Cité Soleil in July and in the last two months of the year. In its contacts with them, the ICRC reiterated the importance of allowing wounded people to be transported to hospital, the need to respect the population, and the principle of proportionality in the use of force.

Improving water supply and sanitation

By year-end, 55 communal water fountains in Cité Soleil had been repaired, as had a second pumping station which, once fully operational early in 2007, would increase by 60% the quantity of water available to 172,500 residents of the shantytown. The city water board was assisted in maintaining the system, and teams of residents were trained in the upkeep of the water fountains and supervision of the sale of water.

In view of the dire hygiene and sanitation conditions in the shantytown, the ICRC reached an agreement with the local refuse-collection service to participate in the refurbishment of 15 rubbish skips, the building of 5 new ones and the provision of spare parts to the sole rubbish-collection truck servicing the shantytown. This ongoing project was set to benefit some 25,000 people.

Missing persons

Taking into account Haiti’s cultural, social and religious traditions, the ICRC resumed discussions with the authorities on the technical support needed to ensure proper identification of people who died as a result of armed conflict, other situations of internal violence or natural disaster.

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

Although the number of detainees in pre-trial detention decreased slightly in 2006, the figure at the main prison of Port-au-Prince remained exceptionally high at 94%, and poor access to water, food, sanitation and basic health care remained a serious concern in spite of limited improvements in the second half of the year.

Detainees gained improved water supply and sanitation following repairs to the water distribution systems of three prisons (Anse-à-Veau, Cap Haïtien and the main prison in Port-au-Prince) and the refurbishment of sanitary facilities in the capital’s main prison. Detainees also saw an improvement in the quantity and quality of food after warehouses attached to the prisons of Port-au-Prince and Anse-à-Veau were upgraded and penitentiary staff working at the central warehouse in Port-au-Prince were trained in better stock management techniques. Regular prison visits by ICRC delegates also ensured that better nutrition contributed to stemming an outbreak of beriberi, a potentially fatal illness brought on by a vitamin B1 deficiency. Nurses working in detention centres countrywide received basic medical training, medicines were provided to prison dispensaries, and seriously ill detainees were brought to hospital by the ICRC.

MAIN FIGURES AND INDICATORS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses)</th>
<th>CIVILIANS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Detainees visited</td>
<td>4,836</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Detainees visited and monitored individually</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of visits carried out</td>
<td>96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of places of detention visited</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water supply schemes and sanitation systems (completed projects)</td>
<td>172,500</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

WOUNDED AND SICK

Following presidential elections in February, there was a lull in the violence that had been plaguing the capital’s shantytowns. Average monthly evacuations of wounded and sick people from Cité Soleil by the Haitian Red Cross amounted to 86 in the months...
preceding the elections. They decreased to 35 in the four months after the elections, but rose again to 46 in the second half of the year. In all, the Haitian Red Cross evacuated some 500 wounded and sick people from Cité Soleil in 2006.

**AUTHORITIES**

The Organization of American States and other stakeholders were kept informed of the ICRC’s activities in Haiti. An ongoing dialogue with the interim government led to the publication of Additional Protocol II in the May issue of the official journal. By December, Haiti had acceded to both Additional Protocols I and II.

**ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS**

MINUSTAH and the Haitian police had a better understanding of the roles and mandates of the Haitian Red Cross and the ICRC after the ICRC stepped up its dialogue with MINUSTAH staff officers in Port-au-Prince and with police officers, resulting in significantly higher levels of cooperation during medical evacuations from Cité Soleil.

- MINUSTAH battalion commanders based in Port-au-Prince briefed on the ICRC’s mandate and activities and on the Fundamental Principles; MINUSTAH battalions based in the provinces attended 12 dissemination sessions on the ICRC’s mandate and the Fundamental Principles
- coordination of dissemination activities put in place with ICRC delegations based in countries providing troops to MINUSTAH; pre-deployment briefings given to MINUSTAH troops in Brazil and Jordan, for example
- police cadets in Port-au-Prince, police officers in Cap-Haitien and Ouanaminthe and the special unit in charge of enforcing law and order in the capital, attended 5 dissemination sessions on the ICRC’s mandate and activities (particularly in connection with detention) and on basic humanitarian norms relevant to policing
- members of armed groups informed of the need to respect the population, medical staff and facilities and the red cross emblem

**CIVIL SOCIETY**

Contacts with the media were reinforced, particularly outside Port-au-Prince. Journalists in Cap-Haitien, Gonaïves and St Marc attended information sessions on the work of the ICRC and the Movement. Representatives of 40 community-based radio stations, covering 70% of the country, were briefed on the work of the ICRC and on basic humanitarian principles. Before and during the elections in February and December, some 15 radio stations around the country broadcast messages in Creole, calling upon the population, and armed groups in particular, to respect medical facilities and the red cross emblem. The ICRC placed special emphasis on building relations with radio stations with large audiences in the shantytowns.

To raise public awareness of the plight of Cité Soleil residents, the ICRC produced news footage of the activities carried out by the Haitian Red Cross and the ICRC to improve living conditions in the shantytown, which it offered to international and national media.

In May, some 100 students and lecturers attended a one-day IHL workshop organized by the ICRC at Quisqueya University. Local journalists covered the event. With a view to launching an IHL course at the university early in 2007, a law lecturer attended an IHL course organized by the ICRC in Sion, Switzerland in September.

**RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT**

Together with Movement partners, the ICRC continued to assist the Haitian National Red Cross Society in implementing its plan of action for 2005–08, including the restructuring of its tracing department. The vice-president of the Haitian Red Cross was able, with ICRC support, to attend a regional conference in Buenos Aires, Argentina, on restoring family links (see Buenos Aires).

With ICRC support, the Haitian Red Cross built a second first-aid post in Cité Soleil to provide victims of violence with better access to emergency medical care. Another first-aid post and the local office of the Haitian Red Cross were refurbished in the town of Belladères, on the border with the Dominican Republic, as were the offices of the regional branch in Mirebalais.
The ICRC regional delegation in Buenos Aires, established in 1975, focuses on promoting the incorporation of IHL into national legislation, into the operational procedures, manuals and training programmes of the armed forces and into the curricula of academic institutions, as well as the inclusion of human rights standards in police manuals and training programmes. It also promotes awareness of IHL among the authorities, schools, the media and the public. It visits security detainees in Chile and Paraguay. In Brazil and Paraguay, it stands ready to respond to potential humanitarian consequences of social unrest. Lastly, the regional delegation contributes to developing the operational capacities of the region’s National Societies.

**CONTEXT**

Glaring social and economic disparities remained a major destabilizing factor in the region. Land distribution issues and indigenous grievances prompted recurrent bouts of violence in Brazil, Chile and Paraguay.

In Brazil, where urban violence continued to claim around 50,000 lives every year, some 200 people were killed in São Paulo, including dozens of law enforcement officers, during three separate episodes of street violence and prison riots staged by criminal armed gangs in May and July. Similar confrontations in Rio de Janeiro in December claimed the lives of more than 20 people in one day.

Inadequate living conditions in many of the region’s prisons remained a contributing factor to the social violence. The recent election of new governments in Argentina, Brazil, Chile and Uruguay encouraged a fresh look at past events, in particular the forced disappearance of thousands of people in the years of military dictatorship. Most of the governments in the region passed legislation paving the way for the prosecution of the perpetrators, investigation of the fate of missing persons and some form of compensation for the victims’ families.

MERCOSUR, an important mechanism for the economic and political integration of countries in the Southern Cone but traditionally undermined by dissension between its junior partners and its more powerful member States, was strengthened in 2006 with the inclusion of Venezuela. The inauguration of the MERCOSUR Parliament was due to take place in 2007.
ICRC ACTION

The ICRC delegation continued to promote the national implementation of IHL throughout the region, focusing on the incorporation of the repression of war crimes into domestic legislation and pressing for the ratification of international instruments such as the Rome Statute, Protocol V to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons on explosive remnants of war, and the Hague Convention on Cultural Property. It also worked with the region’s armed forces to advance the integration of IHL into their doctrine, training and operating procedures and drew the attention of both the police and armed forces to the rules applicable to the use of force in the maintenance of law and order.

In Brazil, where it had introduced a programme in 1998 to integrate applicable human rights norms into the manuals, training programmes and operating procedures of the country’s many police forces, the ICRC signed cooperation agreements with the police forces of two additional states, as well as with a federal body in charge of security.

The integration of IHL into the curricula of the region’s main universities progressed well, while the ICRC began pilot-testing its Exploring Humanitarian Law programme to introduce the teaching of basic humanitarian values in schools in troubled neighbourhoods of Rio de Janeiro.

Visits continued to security detainees in Chile and Paraguay, and the delegation intensified its dialogue with the prison authorities and with local and international organizations concerned with the complex issue of the rights of indigenous populations and landless farmers.

The ICRC also supported the institutional development of the region’s National Societies and helped strengthen their capacities to respond effectively to emergencies arising from violence.

CIVILIANS

The ICRC monitored the situation of people in need of protection, including landless farmers in Brazil and Paraguay and indigenous populations in Brazil and Chile. In cases of alleged human rights violations, it made representations to the relevant authorities and reminded law enforcement agents of the rules applicable to the use of force in the maintenance of law and order.

Following several episodes of street violence and prison riots in Brazilian cities, notably São Paulo, the ICRC made several representations to the relevant authorities and assisted the National Society in drawing up a plan of action to provide services for deprived urban communities.

To help people locate family members with whom they had lost contact, the delegation pursued tracing efforts in conjunction with other ICRC delegations and National Societies in the region and elsewhere. Authorities in the region were encouraged to review existing legislation on missing persons and their families in line with the recommendations of the ICRC’s missing persons initiative.

In November, the region’s National Societies attended, in Buenos Aires, one of four conferences organized worldwide by the ICRC on strengthening capacities to restore family links.

▶ 4 RCMs (collected abroad) distributed
▶ 2 persons issued with ICRC travel documents

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

The ICRC visited detainees in Chile and Paraguay on the basis of agreements with the respective prison authorities and pursued discussions with the Argentinean and Brazilian authorities to secure similar agreements.

An ICRC team, including a doctor, made repeated visits to Mapuche Indians on hunger strike in detention in Chile. The delegates discussed solutions to the problem with the relevant authorities and stressed the importance of refraining from compulsory hospitalization or medical interventions and/or force-feeding, in accordance with internationally recognized medical guidelines. The detainees, imprisoned since 2002, had been sentenced in 2005 under Chile’s anti-terrorist laws for acts of protest against the exploitation by multinationals of natural resources located on ancestral lands. The aim of the detainees’ hunger strike was to gain their transfer to a more “open” detention facility, where they could cultivate a plot of land, and ultimately their release on probation and a reform of the anti-terrorist laws passed in 1984.

In April, health professionals working in Argentine prisons participated in a seminar based on the World Medical Association’s course material, organized by the ICRC and the Argentinean Ministry of Justice and Human Rights. A similar seminar was organized in December by the ICRC and the Chilean prison service.

Also in December, the ICRC embarked on the first phase of a comprehensive survey on conditions of detention in Paraguayan prisons, focusing initially on health. This involved visiting six places of detention – three in the north and three in the capital, Asunción.

▶ in Paraguay, 32 security detainees visited and monitored individually, including 13 newly registered, during 7 visits to 5 places of detention
▶ in Chile, 11 security detainees visited and monitored individually (3 newly registered), including Mapuche Indians and former members of an armed opposition group, during 11 visits to 7 places of detention
▶ 7 detention certificates issued to former detainees or their families

MAIN FIGURES AND INDICATORS

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses)\(^1\)

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Detainees visited and monitored individually</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of visits carried out</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of places of detention visited</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

DOCUMENTS ISSUED

| People to whom a detention attestation was issued | 7 |

\(^1\) Brazil, Chile and Paraguay only
One member of a Colombian guerrilla organization, who was detained in Brazil, was visited by the ICRC.

**AUTHORITIES**

Throughout the region, national IHL committees, with ICRC support, pressed for the repression of war crimes to be incorporated into domestic legislation. Within the reform process of the military codes of conduct in Argentina and Paraguay, the ICRC provided legal advice on the inclusion of penal sanctions for perpetrators of grave breaches of IHL.

Argentina and Uruguay passed laws implementing the Rome Statute.

The region’s national IHL committees also received ICRC legal advice in the ratification of:

- Additional Protocol III;
- Protocol V to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons on explosive remnants of war (Paraguay and Uruguay);

In August, participants from 18 Latin American countries and representatives of UN agencies and the Organization of American States attended a regional conference on weapon-related issues organized in Buenos Aires by the Argentinian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the ICRC. The meeting enhanced participants’ understanding, from an IHL perspective, of issues such as assistance to mine victims, the humanitarian consequences of explosive remnants of war, the prohibition on biological weapons and the proliferation of small arms.

In September, a meeting was held with the director of the MERCOSUR Secretariat to explore areas of cooperation between this increasingly influential body and the ICRC.

**ARMS FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS**

The armed forces and IHL

The Argentinian and Paraguayan armed forces, with ICRC support, pursued the integration of IHL into their doctrine, training and operating procedures. The new defence ministers of Argentina, Chile and Uruguay pledged to accelerate the integration process, while the Brazilian armed forces began integrating IHL into their instruction courses.

Human rights norms relevant to policing

In view of the frequent incidents of violence in Brazilian cities and social protests linked to land distribution and indigenous issues, the ICRC continued to emphasize to police forces, and to armed forces whenever necessary, the rules applicable to the use of force during law enforcement operations.

In 2006, two Brazilian states signed agreements with the ICRC focusing on the integration of relevant human rights norms into police training and procedures, bringing the number of states to have concluded such agreements to seven. A similar document was signed with the federal body in charge of overall coordination of the Brazilian police forces, ensuring that a national police unit recently created to assist the state police in dealing with situations of internal violence would also be covered by the agreement.

Police forces in Paraguay also signed an agreement to integrate relevant human rights norms into their training and procedures.

**CIVIL SOCIETY**

National and regional media were kept regularly informed of ICRC activities and humanitarian issues. Key members of the media in Brazil attended seminars on humanitarian issues organized by the ICRC.

Some 40 teachers from 8 schools in Rio de Janeiro’s violence-prone shantytowns received preliminary training in the Exploring Humanitarian Law programme, following the pilot project’s approval by the state education authorities. The programme was also being taught in Chile and Uruguay.

Some 300 university lecturers from across the region continued to enhance their knowledge of IHL, with the ICRC providing updated material on the subject.

**RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT**

National Society staff in Argentina and Paraguay continued to receive training in the Safer Access approach to prepare for possible situations of internal violence. The Chilean Red Cross received extensive support from the ICRC in its work with vulnerable Mapuche indigenous communities.

The Brazilian Red Cross branches in Rio de Janeiro and São Paulo received ICRC support in dealing with the humanitarian consequences of urban violence.

With tripartite agreements already in place between the ICRC, the International Federation and the Red Cross Societies of Brazil and Uruguay, the ICRC pressed for similar agreements with the National Societies of Argentina and Chile.
The regional delegation was first established in 1971. Throughout the region, it focuses on promoting the incorporation of IHL into national legislation, into the operational procedures, manuals and training programmes of the armed forces and into the curricula of academic institutions, as well as the inclusion of human rights standards in police manuals and training programmes. It also helps to boost the capacities of National Red Cross Societies in the region.

**CONTEXT**

In elections pronounced free and fair by most international observers, Hugo Chávez was re-elected president of Venezuela in December by a comfortable majority of almost 63%, despite aconcerted challenge from a newly regrouped opposition.

President Chávez embarked on an intensive and ultimately unsuccessful international lobbying campaign to secure a seat for Venezuela on the UN Security Council. He also sought to strengthen ties with like-minded Latin American countries and with China, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Russian Federation and Arab oil-producing countries. Venezuela withdrew from the Andean Community of Nations after President Chávez strongly criticized some of its members for signing a free trade agreement with the United States. In July, Venezuela officially joined MERCOSUR, a common market consisting of Southern Cone countries.

Relations between Venezuela and the United States remained tense. In May, the United States placed Venezuela on a list of countries officially banned from receiving US military equipment. Venezuela continued, however, to acquire weapons from China and the Russian Federation to bolster its national defence capacity.

Spiralling levels of violent crime prompted the Venezuelan government to initiate sweeping police reforms aimed at creating a unified national police force.

Meanwhile, the reduction of violent crime linked to illicit drug and arms trafficking remained the top priority of Caribbean Community (CARICOM) governments. Some relied increasingly on their armed forces to fight crime alongside the police, while others sought assistance from foreign police forces, such as the UK’s Scotland Yard and the US Federal Bureau of Investigation.

By the end of 2006, only six of CARICOM’s 15 members had formally joined the CARICOM Single Market and Economy, with smaller countries of the Eastern Caribbean still struggling to meet the criteria for membership. After a two-year suspension, Haiti was readmitted to CARICOM following the election of René Prévôt.

In 2006, the ICRC:
- continued to monitor the detention conditions of people arrested in connection with political unrest in the region, especially in Venezuela;
- established contact with newly created army units in Venezuela (the Reserva Nacional and Guardia Territorial) to offer its support in integrating IHL and international human rights law into their doctrine, instruction and training;
- organized a workshop on IHL integration for the chiefs of staff of CARICOM countries and another on the ratification and national implementation of IHL for the attorneys-general of member countries of the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States.
ICRC ACTION

The ICRC regional delegation in Caracas focused on prevention and humanitarian diplomacy aimed at reinforcing its acceptance by political, military and police authorities and civil society throughout the region. In Venezuela, while limited progress was made in the integration of IHL into the doctrine, instruction and training of the armed forces, the integration of human rights norms applicable to policing proceeded at a steady pace, helped by the momentum generated by the police reform process.

The ICRC continued to encourage governments in the region to ratify and implement IHL treaties. It trained lecturers in IHL and successfully pursued the formal integration of IHL into courses in Venezuelan and Caribbean universities. The media in the region were kept regularly informed of ICRC activities worldwide. ICRC delegates monitored the detention conditions of people deprived of their freedom in connection with political unrest in Venezuela and with the 1983 coup d’etat in Grenada.

The Directorate of the CARICOM Secretariat and the ICRC finalized a document for signature establishing a formal cooperation arrangement for the promotion and implementation of humanitarian norms and principles in the CARICOM region.

The ICRC continued to work with the International Federation to strengthen the capacities of the region’s National Societies. It supported several programmes of the Venezuelan Red Cross and, jointly with the International Federation, organized a workshop for senior staff of National Societies in the CARICOM region.

In 2006, ICRC delegates were granted unhindered access to all detention centres in Venezuela and Grenada. Colombian nationals detained in Venezuela received basic hygiene items, and in Grenada the Richmond Hill Prison received a computer to facilitate the resumption of a computer training programme interrupted after some facilities were destroyed by Hurricane Ivan in 2004.

The ICRC continued negotiations with the Venezuelan authorities to secure a formal agreement on prison visits.

67 detainees (1 female) visited and monitored individually, including 10 newly registered, during 14 visits to 5 places of detention in Venezuela

16 detainees held in connection with a coup in 1983 visited and monitored individually during 2 visits to 1 detention centre in Grenada

People Deprived of their Freedom

In 2006, the Venezuelan authorities were encouraged to ratify international instruments, such as Protocols IV and V to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons and its amended Article 1 and the two Protocols to the Hague Convention on Cultural Property, and to enact implementing legislation. The attorney-general, the general prosecutor and members of parliament were offered support in working towards the inclusion of the repression of war crimes in domestic legislation.
In the CARICOM region, progress on the ratification of IHL treaties and their national implementation remained slow, despite ICRC legal advice and technical support to individual governments, attorneys-general of CARICOM countries and the CARICOM Secretariat. Nevertheless, Jamaica and Saint Lucia issued drafting instructions to prepare implementing legislation on the 1949 Geneva Conventions, and Trinidad and Tobago circulated a draft Geneva Conventions Act to relevant government ministries in preparation for Cabinet approval. Trinidad and Tobago passed a law incorporating the provisions of the Rome Statute, while Saint Kitts and Nevis acceded to the Statute in August.

A cooperation agreement, focusing on legal issues and aimed at the promotion of humanitarian norms and principles in the CARICOM region, was made ready for signature by the CARICOM Secretariat and the ICRC. In May, the ICRC, through the CARICOM Secretariat, conducted a workshop for attorneys-general of member countries of the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States to advise and consult them on the implementation of IHL.

**ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS**

Meetings with the chief training instructors of the Venezuelan armed forces, as well as with other influential members of the government and the military, were held to discuss how best to integrate IHL into the doctrine, instruction and training of the armed forces, but no firm agreements were reached. A workshop was also held for defence chiefs of CARICOM States in Port-of-Spain in June to start the design of a strategy to integrate relevant humanitarian norms and principles into the doctrine, instruction and training procedures of the region’s armed forces.

In Venezuela, the ongoing police reform paved the way for relevant international human rights norms to be integrated into the curriculum and usage manuals of the police, aided by close cooperation between the ICRC and the commission in charge of the reform process, parliament and the Ministries of Justice and the Interior. In September, a new police code of conduct, largely inspired by the main provisions of international law enforcement standards, was adopted through a ministerial resolution.

**CIVIL SOCIETY**

The press, radio and television networks covered humanitarian issues and ICRC activities thanks to reinforced contacts with the media in Venezuela and in the CARICOM States. Such contacts included the regional television channel Telesur and the Caracas office of Al Jazeera, both of which expressed interest in reporting on ICRC activities.

At a workshop in November, representatives of the Ministry of Education of Trinidad and Tobago were briefed on the Exploring Humanitarian Law programme with a view to its introduction in secondary school curricula. Also in November, university lecturers from the Caribbean region attended an ICRC workshop designed to foster greater awareness of IHL among the academic community and to enable universities to develop appropriate teaching curricula.

20 members of the international media based in Venezuela and 6 lecturers from Venezuelan universities attended presentations on IHL and the ICRC.

**RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT**

The Venezuelan Red Cross revised its statutes with technical input from the ICRC. The two organizations discussed ways of strengthening the National Society’s tracing department and of implementing the Safer Access approach to improve access by staff and volunteers to victims in the event of internal violence, particularly in view of the presidential elections scheduled for December. The National Society, with ICRC support, prompted the authorities to pass a law on the use and protection of the emblem. With ICRC financial and logistical support, members of the Venezuelan Red Cross and of 11 CARICOM National Societies attended, in Buenos Aires, one of four conferences on restoring family links organized worldwide (see Buenos Aires).

In May, senior representatives of the six largest National Societies of the CARICOM region participated in a leadership workshop organized in Trinidad and Tobago by the ICRC and the International Federation. The event was an opportunity for key National Society officials to improve their leadership skills and to share experiences with their counterparts from elsewhere in the region. At the meeting, the ICRC briefed the participants on the latest developments regarding Additional Protocol III. A similar event for smaller National Societies of the CARICOM region, originally planned for December, was rescheduled for the first quarter of 2007.
In 2006, the ICRC:
- enhanced the capacities of the region’s National Societies, particularly in Bolivia and Ecuador, to respond effectively to the needs of people affected by internal disturbances and other situations of internal violence;
- launched the first phase of a comprehensive survey of conditions of detention in Bolivia and Peru with a view to advising prison authorities on structural reforms;
- organized a regional conference in Lima on health in prisons, leading to the creation of a continental network of experts on the issue;
- participated in the drafting of a manual on human rights norms applicable to the use of force in the case of the police. It monitors conditions of detention, endeavours to ascertain the fate of missing persons and assists people affected by the lingering consequences of the confrontation between government forces and the remnants of insurgent groups. It also seeks to strengthen the capacities of the region’s National Societies to respond to situations of internal strife.

**CONTEXT**

A year after his decisive electoral victory, Bolivian President Evo Morales still enjoyed high approval ratings. Measures such as the nationalization in May of the country’s vast natural gas and oil reserves and the promulgation of an ambitious law on agrarian reform reassured his mainly indigenous electoral base, while alienating the rich lowland departments of Santa Cruz, Tarija, Beni and Pando, where most of the country’s oil and gas resources were located. In July, the results of national elections to designate representatives to a constituent assembly charged with drafting a new constitution and of a referendum on regional autonomy deepened the country’s geographical, ethnic and social divide. In October, violent clashes between government-employed and independent miners at the country’s largest tin mine in the town of Huanuni left 16 miners dead and more than 60 injured.

In Ecuador, the populations of oil-producing regions blocked roads and oil installations to denounce the perceived unfair distribution of oil revenues and in protest at government plans to sign a free trade agreement with the United States. In the second round of presidential elections in November, Rafael Correa, a university professor and former economics minister, won a clear-cut victory. He vowed not to sign the free trade agreement with Washington and to close a US military base on Ecuadorian soil. He was also in favour of a fairer distribution of the nation’s wealth among the poor and better representation for women and the indigenous community.

In Peru, antagonism to the free trade agreement with the United States and to the presence of foreign oil and mining companies perceived as environmentally damaging and socially insensitive also prompted mass demonstrations, strikes and road blockades. In the region of Alto Huallaga and in the Ene and Apurímac valleys, remnants of the Shining Path movement clashed with law enforcement agents, resulting in the deaths or capture of key rebel leaders. In retaliation for perceived “betrayals” by members of local communities, armed groups threatened civilians, leading to limited displacements. In June, Alan García, who had been president from 1985 to 1990, won the presidential elections.

The delegation in Lima opened in 1984, becoming a regional delegation in 2003. Throughout the region, it promotes the national implementation of IHL and its integration into academic curricula and the doctrine, operational procedures, manuals and training programmes of the armed forces (human rights norms applicable to the use of force in the case of the police). It monitors conditions of detention, endeavours to ascertain the fate of missing persons and assists people affected by the lingering consequences of the confrontation between government forces and the remnants of insurgent groups. It also seeks to strengthen the capacities of the region’s National Societies to respond to situations of internal strife.

**EXPENDITURE (IN KCHF)**

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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>3,721</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**IMPLEMENTATION RATE**

Expenditure/yearly budget: 75%

**PERSONNEL**

- 9 expatriates
- 34 national staff (daily workers not included)
ICRC ACTION

The regional delegation monitored the conditions of detention of more than a thousand detainees held for security reasons in Peru. It also offered expertise and structural support to government authorities in Peru and Bolivia in their efforts to upgrade health services for detainees.

In Peru, the ICRC continued to work with concerned organizations and with associations of families of missing persons to promote the families’ right to know what had happened to their loved ones.

In light of the social unrest in the region, the ICRC reinforced the capacities of National Societies to respond effectively to the consequences of violence, providing them with equipment and training in the Safer Access approach. It also provided technical and financial support to National Society programmes to promote the Fundamental Principles. When they were not covered by the national health system, the ICRC paid the medical costs of people injured in the violence.

The ICRC continued to provide the region’s armed forces with technical advice in the integration of IHL into their doctrine and training. It also supported the integration of pertinent human rights norms into the manuals and training programmes of the region’s police force.

The teaching of IHL in universities in the region and in secondary schools in Peru and Bolivia continued to expand. With the National Societies, the ICRC organized workshops for journalists in Bolivia and Ecuador on the ICRC, its mandate and activities and the provisions of IHL and human rights law applicable in armed conflicts and other situations of internal violence. It also continued to encourage all the region’s governments to integrate IHL instruments in general, and the Rome Statute in particular, into their national legislation. In Peru, the ICRC cooperated with six local human rights NGOs to encourage the legislative authorities to adopt a draft law incorporating the repression of war crimes into the criminal justice code.

CIVILIANS

Social protests
All three countries covered by the regional delegation experienced episodes of violence in 2006: protest movements against oil and mining companies in Ecuador and Peru; dissatisfaction with the perceived mismanagement of public affairs by municipal and regional authorities in Peru; and clashes between pro- and anti-government forces in Bolivia. The ICRC closely followed events and provided support to the region’s National Societies in dealing with the consequences of internal disturbances (see Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement). Most people injured during the violence received medical care through their national health services, but some victims of violence in Peru had the costs of their treatment covered by the ICRC.

Vigilance linked to remnants of insurgent groups in Peru
In the region of Alto Huallaga and in the Ene-Apurímac river basin, residents threatened by armed groups for alleged collaboration with law enforcement officials were assisted by the ICRC in reaching safer areas. To protect themselves against potential attacks, some communities had planted improvised explosive devices (IEDs) around their villages, leading to some injuries.

1. Peruvian only

2. Perú and Bolivia

ICRC ANNUAL REPORT 2006
In Peru, 1,025 detainees were monitored individually by the ICRC, of whom 990 remained detained under anti-terrorist laws or for alleged acts of “rebellion”. Their numbers kept decreasing, as many were released after serving sentences dating back to the 1990s.

Although a family visits programme was suspended in 2005, transport costs were paid by the ICRC in exceptional cases to enable children or elderly parents living in remote areas to visit their detained family members.

Improving health in prisons
Together with in-depth surveys on health care in Bolivian and Peruvian prisons, the ICRC supported efforts to reform the way health care for detainees was delivered, pushing for the creation of an independent structure dedicated to the issue. Health professionals working in prisons attended workshops covering topics such as tuberculosis (TB), HIV/AIDS, mental health, addictions and forensic medicine. Peru’s National Penitentiary Institute (INPE) trained, with ICRC funding, detainees as health promoters in 12 detention centres. Since 2000, when the ICRC started supporting structural reforms within INPE, detainee health promoters had played a pivotal role in programmes designed to keep TB and HIV/AIDS under control.

In September, health professionals from eight South American countries attended the first Latin American seminar on penitentiary health, organized in Lima by INPE and the ICRC. In addition to sharing experiences in health management in prisons, participants decided to set up a continental network of specialists in penitentiary health. They also signed a declaration calling for governments in the region to take appropriate measures to guarantee access to health care for detainees.

1,094 detainees visited, 1,025 of them monitored individually (129 females) including 77 newly registered (6 females) during 80 visits to 46 places of detention
46 detainees visited by relatives with ICRC financial assistance
38 RCMs collected from and 5 RCMs distributed to detainees
74 telephone calls made to inform families of the situation of a detained relative
23 detention certificates issued to former detainees or their families (including 8 in Bolivia)

AUTHORITIES

In Bolivia and Ecuador, the ICRC submitted to the authorities a study on the compatibility of their national legislations with their countries’ obligations under IHL. In Ecuador, a national IHL committee was created; a law on the protection of the emblem had yet to be approved. In Peru, national implementation of IHL progressed with the approval in January of a new code of justice for the military police integrating a thorough classification of IHL violations. A draft law condemning the production and use of landmines was approved by parliament in July, while approval of a draft law on the incorporation of the repression of war crimes in Peru’s criminal justice code was still pending. At the 36th General Assembly of the Organization of American States in June, the Peruvian authorities promoted, with ICRC support, a resolution on the issue of missing persons and assistance to their families.

In 2006, National Societies, particularly in Bolivia and Ecuador, were encouraged to assist national IHL committees in setting their goals regarding the ratification and national implementation of IHL instruments.

The Peruvian Academy of Magistrates integrated IHL into its criminal law courses with ICRC support. Sixty Ecuadorean judges trained in IHL by the ICRC were requested in turn to train judicial staff working in four provinces.

CIVIL SOCIETY

The media
Some 200 journalists in the region attended workshops organized by the ICRC and the Bolivian and Ecuadorean Red Cross Societies, during which they learned about the mandates and activities of the ICRC and the Movement, the difference between IHL and international human rights law and the usefulness of the Safer Access approach in accessing victims during situations of violence and internal disturbances. Journalists in Bolivia covered the violent confrontation between miners in Huanuni from a humanitarian perspective.

Photo exhibitions and conferences organized by the region’s National Societies and the ICRC drew attention to the plight of women affected by armed conflict and other situations of internal violence.

Universities
In 2006, four universities in Bolivia, four in Ecuador and seven in Peru introduced the teaching of IHL in mainstream compulsory courses related to international law, social sciences and media studies. Bolivian and Ecuadorean lecturers trained by the ICRC participated in a study on the compatibility of the domestic legal framework with their countries’ obligations under IHL.

Schools
In Peru, the Exploring Humanitarian Law programme was extended to 20 of the country’s 25 departments. The Ministry of Education launched a plan to assess the programme’s impact since its inception in 2003.
In Bolivia, where the programme was being implemented in nine of the country’s departments, 60 teachers participated in two train-the-trainer workshops. With a view to including IHL and international human rights law in Bolivia’s new legislation related to education, the Ministry of Education requested that the ICRC draft a proposal to this effect, which was submitted to parliament for approval.

- 3 university lecturers from Bolivia and 2 from Ecuador participated in IHL courses abroad

**RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT**

Owing to the potential for social upheaval in the region, the ICRC focused on strengthening the National Societies’ emergency response capacities. Staff and volunteers from the Red Cross Societies of Bolivia and Ecuador continued to receive training in the Safer Access approach. Contingency plans for responding to the humanitarian consequences of situations of violence were updated. The two National Societies purchased additional equipment (radio equipment, first-aid material, protection gear, two ambulances) and built two more first-aid posts with ICRC financial support. They were thus able to deploy first-aid teams during demonstrations and violent street protests.

The National Societies’ efforts to build additional capacities in communication and dissemination were supported by the ICRC, which contributed to the development of a manual for managing public information during situations of violence. In order to define its communication strategy for the next three years, the Bolivian Red Cross, with ICRC support, launched a survey to gauge its public image.

The Ecuadorian Red Cross, with support from the ICRC and the International Federation, set up a new provincial branch in the region of Quito. Owing to an institutional crisis affecting the Peruvian Red Cross, programmes developed with the National Society had to be suspended in 2006. Nevertheless, the ICRC continued to provide ad hoc support at branch level for important operational activities.
The Mexico delegation opened in 1998, becoming a regional delegation in 2002. It seeks to integrate IHL into academic curricula and the doctrine and training of the armed forces (human rights norms applicable to the use of force in the case of the police). It strengthens the capacities of the region’s National Societies, mainly in the areas of dissemination and tracing, assists Colombian refugees in Panama’s Darien region and the local populations hosting them, monitors the conditions of detainees in Mexico and Panama, and endeavours to ascertain the fate of missing persons, particularly in Guatemala. The delegation also hosts the Advisory Service on IHL for Latin America and the Caribbean.

In 2006, presidential elections were held in Costa Rica, Honduras, Mexico and Nicaragua. Legislative elections took place in El Salvador. In most of the countries in the region, political and social tensions remained high, with elections often won by very narrow margins.

In Mexico, fiercely contested presidential elections in July led to a protracted standoff and daily street protests up to September, when the Federal Electoral Tribunal declared Felipe Calderón the winner, with only 0.58% more votes than his rival, Andrés Manuel López Obrador.

In the impoverished southern state of Oaxaca, a teachers’ strike staged every year to demand higher wages grew into a massive popular movement to oust the state governor after he called in hundreds of municipal police officers to dislodge protestors from the city centre in June, resulting in the arrest, injury or death of several people. Undeterred, thousands of people from all sectors of civil society continued the protest for the better part of the year. Early in November, the federal police were sent in with tanks and helicopters to retake the city centre, leading to more arrests, injuries and deaths. Demonstrations of solidarity with Oaxaca’s protestors took place in the southern states of Michoacán and Chiapas and in several cities around the world.

In peaceful presidential elections held in Nicaragua in November, Daniel Ortega, general secretary of the Sandinista National Liberation Front, former revolutionary leader and president of Nicaragua from 1985 to 1990, was returned to power with 38% of the vote.

Violence arising from organized crime, drug trafficking, the activities of youth gangs and the proliferation of small arms continued to plague the region, resulting in the deaths of thousands of people.

In Cuba, President Fidel Castro’s deteriorating health led to renewed speculation in Washington and elsewhere about the country’s future. The 80-year-old president handed over power temporarily to his brother, Raúl Castro, and to a college of senior officials. The Cuban population remained calm throughout these developments.

### Key Points

- In 2006, the ICRC:
  - with the Guatemalan authorities and organizations in Guatemala already working on the issue, gave precedence to activities to support the families of missing persons;
  - pursued visits to detainees in Mexico;
  - signed a cooperation agreement with the Conference of Central American Armed Forces;
  - reoriented its mine-action programme in Nicaragua to ensure greater synergy and strategic coordination with key mine-action bodies;
  - closely monitored the situation in Cuba to be ready to adapt its programme to events as they unfolded.

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### Context

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### Expenditure (in KCHF)

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<td>Assistance</td>
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<td><strong>4,131</strong></td>
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<td>of which: Overheads</td>
<td><strong>252</strong></td>
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### Implementation Rate

Expenditure/yearly budget: 71%

### Personnel

- 8 expatriates
- 27 national staff (daily workers not included)

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The Mexico delegation opened in 1998, becoming a regional delegation in 2002. It seeks to integrate IHL into academic curricula and the doctrine and training of the armed forces (human rights norms applicable to the use of force in the case of the police). It strengthens the capacities of the region’s National Societies, mainly in the areas of dissemination and tracing, assists Colombian refugees in Panama’s Darien region and the local populations hosting them, monitors the conditions of detainees in Mexico and Panama, and endeavours to ascertain the fate of missing persons, particularly in Guatemala. The delegation also hosts the Advisory Service on IHL for Latin America and the Caribbean.
ICRC ACTION

The ICRC monitored the situation in the troubled Mexican state of Oaxaca and visited people detained as a result of violent clashes between demonstrators and law-enforcement agencies. It provided support to the local branch of the Mexican Red Cross and coordinated a humanitarian response with other organizations working in Oaxaca.

In Guatemala, the ICRC met government authorities and relevant NGOs to discuss how it could best support efforts to address the issue of persons unaccounted for in connection with the 30-year internal armed conflict. It collected information on the specific needs of close relatives of missing persons and participated in a preparatory commission to establish the legal framework for a permanent commission on missing persons. A proposal to this effect was submitted to congress in December.

In Nicaragua, an ICRC mine-action expert carried out an assessment of mine-action programmes with a view to helping the Nicaraguan Red Cross revise its mine-action approach and to contribute to the country’s efforts to develop effective and realistic preventive mine-action programmes.

Work continued with the Panamanian Red Cross to ensure that Colombian refugees in the Darién region received adequate assistance and protection. An agronomist carried out two field missions to the region to provide local communities with technical assistance and training.

The ICRC continued to assist the armed forces in the region, particularly in El Salvador, Guatemala, Mexico and Nicaragua, in their efforts to integrate IHL into all aspects of training and operations. Likewise, in Mexico, Nicaragua and Panama, programmes to support the integration of pertinent human rights norms into the curriculum and training of police forces were in progress. Universities in Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua and Panama received training and materials from the ICRC to enhance the teaching of IHL in relevant faculties. The ICRC continued to encourage authorities in the region to accede to IHL treaties and to enact implementing legislation.

In coordination with the International Federation, the ICRC developed new training materials to ensure safer access of staff and volunteers to victims of internal disturbances and/or natural disasters. It also helped the Nicaraguan Red Cross draw up contingency plans and strengthen its emergency response capacity ahead of presidential elections in November.

Health professionals and humanitarian aid workers from government agencies, NGOs and the Movement throughout Latin America participated in a Health Emergencies in Large Populations (H.E.L.P.) course organized by the ICRC in Cuernavaca, Mexico in November.

CIVILIANS

Refugees and residents in the Darién region
In 2006, 24 indigenous families (127 people) fleeing the conflict in neighbouring Colombia sought asylum in Panama. They received food and medical assistance from the Panamanian Red Cross pending the processing of their asylum applications by the Panamanian authorities.

Thirteen communities (190 families) that had settled in the upper Río Tuira (Darién region) received medical assistance, food, household items, seeds and agricultural tools during five missions undertaken to the area by the Panamanian Red Cross with ICRC support. The communities also benefited from advice from a Panamanian Red Cross agronomist who showed them how to increase their self-sufficiency through improved methods of cultivation.

During Panamanian Red Cross missions to the Darién region:

- 490 medical consultations performed;
- 42 people immunized;
- 335 people given dental treatment;
- 6 RCMs collected.

Dealing with the issue of missing persons and restoring family links
In response to the decision by the Guatemalan government to set up a national commission on missing persons, the ICRC conducted a special mission to Guatemala in May to assess ways of providing the commission, once established, with technical expertise on data collection and management. In order to provide family members of missing persons with appropriate assistance, a field trip was conducted to assess their specific needs. A draft law on the establishment of a permanent commission on missing persons was drawn up with ICRC technical assistance and submitted to congress in December.

To help relatives identify the remains of their loved ones, the Guatemalan Forensic Anthropology Foundation (FAFG) and the ICRC jointly published a catalogue of clothing and personal items recovered from human remains exhumed during forensic investigations. The FAFG was able, with ICRC financial assistance, to exhume 56 bodies of victims of a mudslide which occurred near the village of Panabaj after tropical storm Stan hit the region in November 2005.

Fifteen family reunions took place with ICRC financial assistance after the National Commission for the Search for Disappeared Children located in Mexico people who had been subjected to enforced disappearance as children in the early to mid-1980s during Guatemala’s internal armed conflict.

In Panama, the ICRC undertook a comparative study to examine whether existing national legislation met international norms governing enforced disappearances with a view to advising the government on the practical measures to be taken to adapt legislation accordingly.
Mine action in Nicaragua
The Nicaraguan authorities and locally based mine-action organizations benefited from ICRC expertise in developing effective and realistic preventive mine-action programmes to minimize the dangers posed to the population by mines and explosive remnants of war (ERW) left over from the past conflict. The ICRC reoriented its mine-action programme in Nicaragua to ensure greater synergy and strategic coordination with key mine-action bodies and to provide support through the Nicaraguan Red Cross to mine/ERW victims. In discussions with the National Demining Commission, it explored ways of supporting future activities in light of the announcement by the Organization of American States that it would be reducing its funding as of 2007.

The Nicaraguan Red Cross, with ICRC support, carried out mine-risk education activities and provided medical and other forms of support to mine/ERW victims.

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM
To monitor the social tensions in the Mexican state of Oaxaca and coordinate its humanitarian response with the local branch of the Mexican Red Cross and other organizations, the ICRC conducted several field visits to the region, starting in May. Demonstrators detained in November following violent clashes with law enforcement agencies were visited by ICRC delegates.

In Mexico, in order to rationalize detention activities, the ICRC reviewed its criteria for visiting detainees, restricting its visits and assistance to people detained for alleged links with armed opposition groups, as well as to people considered especially vulnerable.

- 122 detainees monitored individually (15 females, 2 minors), including 57 newly registered (11 females, 2 minors), during 23 visits to 19 places of detention
- 23 detainees visited by their relatives with the support of the ICRC; 1 detainee received eyeglasses

AUTHORITIES
El Salvador ratified Protocol V to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons on explosive remnants of war, and eight countries covered by the delegation signed Additional Protocol III, Honduras being the first State in the Americas to ratify it. Mexico adopted a law on the protection of the emblem.

Working through the national IHL committee, the ICRC made recommendations to the Guatemalan government on the implementation of measures to address the issue of missing persons and their families. The national IHL committee submitted a proposal to the government to create a national register of people deprived of their freedom.

In Costa Rica and Panama, proposals to incorporate the repression of war crimes into the criminal code were submitted to parliament after being reviewed by the ICRC delegation’s legal advisory service.

ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS
IHL and the armed forces
The integration of IHL into the training programmes of the Guatemalan, Mexican, Nicaraguan and Salvadoran armed forces intensified in 2006. Checklists on the incorporation of relevant IHL norms into tactical manuals and permanent operational procedures were completed. Teacher-trainer courses on IHL and specialized IHL courses for legal advisers to the armed forces were permanently built into the standard curricula of military academies. The region’s armed forces and the ICRC conducted workshops featuring practical exercises simulating conflict situations in which IHL norms were being applied. The level of IHL integration in the region’s armed forces was assessed during a seminar conducted by the ICRC.

A conference of Latin American defence ministers held in October in Managua failed to adopt an ICRC proposal calling for a clear distinction between the legal frameworks applicable to armed conflict situations on the one hand (IHL) and to law enforcement operations on the other hand (international human rights law).
In 2006, a cooperation agreement was signed with the Conference of Central American Armed Forces, creating working groups on the appropriate use of force in law enforcement operations and on the distinction between IHL and international human rights law.

**Human rights norms applicable to policing**

Mexico City’s police force made good progress in integrating human rights norms applicable to law enforcement situations into its training. However, activities with Mexico’s federal police force were suspended in the absence of a memorandum of understanding between the ICRC and the Public Security Secretariat at the federal level.

- 30 officers from the Mexican armed forces and 1 officer each from the armed forces of El Salvador, Guatemala and Nicaragua and from Panama’s border police attended an IHL teacher-trainer course in Mexico City
- 532 high-ranking army officers from the region participated in 3 workshops on the appropriate use of force in law enforcement situations; another 1,600 officers attended 26 ICRC-supported training courses
- 5,800 police officers from Mexico familiarized with the ICRC’s *To serve and to protect* training manual on the relevant provisions of IHL and international human rights law during a training programme conducted by 30 police instructors
- members of Nicaragua’s special police force attended 2 seminars on the appropriate use of force in law enforcement operations

**CIVIL SOCIETY**

Costa Rican and Mexican television channels broadcast, either at heavily discounted rates or free of charge, five TV spots produced by the ICRC on missing persons, child soldiers, the protection of cultural property, women and war, and human dignity.

In May, the Children’s Museum of Costa Rica inaugurated the ICRC-Reuters photographic exhibition on children and war. A photo exhibition highlighting the plight of civilians affected by the conflict in Colombia (see *Colombia*) was shown in several locations in Mexico.

Mexican NGOs and human rights commissions joined the ICRC in promoting topics of common interest, such as the protection of journalists during armed conflict and basic IHL principles.

A further ten academic institutions in Costa Rica, El Salvador, Mexico, Nicaragua and Panama established formal agreements with the ICRC to integrate the teaching of IHL into their curricula. Similar agreements were being negotiated in Guatemala and Honduras.

Universities in the region that had signed cooperation agreements with the ICRC were committed to stepping up the integration of IHL teaching, with one university in Guatemala making the subject compulsory for law students. Eleven other academic institutions in Costa Rica, El Salvador, Mexico, Nicaragua and Panama offered optional IHL courses in law faculties. In eight of those universities, students studying international relations, communication and political science gained an understanding of IHL through dissemination sessions.

The Honduran educational authorities agreed to evaluate the implementation of the Exploring Humanitarian Law programme and made a commitment to conclude a cooperation agreement on the subject with the ICRC. In Guatemala, the educational authorities were not in a position to commit themselves to the implementation of the programme in secondary schools. Its integration into school curricula was therefore put on hold.

57 Costa Rican and Mexican journalists participated in a workshop on the role of the ICRC and the Movement in conflict situations
- 19 ICRC-trained university lecturers participated in IHL dissemination activities with armed forces, national authorities, National Societies and universities

**RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT**

Cooperation agreements with the region’s National Societies were in the process of being renewed. New statutes adopted by the Nicaraguan and Panamanian National Societies were being disseminated.

All the National Societies in the region were actively promoting IHL and the Fundamental Principles, and for this purpose received new dissemination handbooks and instructors’ manuals. The National Societies in Costa Rica, El Salvador and Mexico in particular established efficient dissemination networks.

The inclusion of tracing activities in the strategic plans of the region’s National Societies was a priority in 2006. The ICRC assisted regional disaster intervention teams in introducing the topic in their training programmes. The lead role of the ICRC in restoring family links and as a focal point in the management of human remains in the case of natural disasters was recognized. The Honduran and Nicaraguan Red Cross Societies adopted guidelines on restoring family links.

Dissemination directors from the Dominican and Honduran National Societies represented the whole region at a meeting on the proliferation of small arms held in Geneva in March. In November, senior members of the Cuban, Dominican, Guatemalan, Honduran and Mexican Red Cross Societies attended a conference in Buenos Aires, Argentina, on restoring family links (see *Buenos Aires*).

- 5,000 people in the region received basic training in IHL and the Fundamental Principles
- 244 volunteers from the Costa Rican, Mexican and Nicaraguan Red Cross Societies trained in the Safer Access approach and supported in developing contingency plans to respond to internal disturbances
The relevance of the 1949 Geneva Conventions, particularly Article 3 common to the four Conventions, to the “war on terror” and to persons detained within that context attracted an unprecedented level of political and public debate in the United States, leading to the most significant developments in US detention policy since 2002.

First, the Supreme Court ruling in the “Hamdam case”, concerning a Yemeni national captured during the invasion of Afghanistan and held in Guantanamo Bay, recognized common Article 3 as the minimum legal standard applicable to individuals detained in the fight against “terrorism”. Secondly, the US Department of Defense directive on detention and the Revised Army Field Manual guaranteed the application of common Article 3 to people held under the department’s authority. Thirdly, President Bush acknowledged the existence of a secret detention programme of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) and explicitly granted the ICRC access to detainees held as part of that programme who were transferred to Guantanamo Bay Naval Station, Cuba. Lastly, a Military Commissions Act was adopted, spelling out the procedure for military commissions set up to try individuals held within the scope of the “war on terror”.

These developments, which incorporated input from the executive, legislative and judicial arms of government, provided the most complete public US position on detention to date. Granting the ICRC greater access to new detainees/internnees, clearly spelling out norms in the treatment of detainees/internnees and making common Article 3 legally applicable to individuals held in the context of the “war on terror” were all welcome moves. However, concerns persisted over some aspects of the new legislation, including the broad definition of “unlawful enemy combatant” and the decriminalization of certain violations of IHL such as “outrages upon personal dignity” and the denial of the right to a fair trial.

The transfer of detainees from Guantanamo to their countries of origin continued, and the fate of individuals not to be criminally charged remained unclear.

The protracted war in Iraq, the difficulties it entailed and its heavy toll on civilians and military personnel remained in the spotlight. The war and subsequent occupation had left 3,000 US soldiers dead and over 20,000 wounded and was steadily losing public support. Elsewhere, an increase in alleged attacks by the Taliban on Coalition and Afghan forces and on civilians in the south turned public attention back to the war in Afghanistan.

An alleged “terrorist” plot to blow up a major building in Toronto reopened a national debate in Canada on “terrorism”, the threat it posed and Canada’s position on the issue. The detention of a Canadian Muslim at a New York airport and his transfer to a Syrian prison by US agents caused controversy in Canada and intensified the debate on the “war on terror”. Increasing Canadian military engagement in Afghanistan led to a rise
in casualties and raised questions over the transfer of individuals captured by Canadian forces to the Afghan authorities.

ICRC ACTION

The operational activities of the ICRC’s Washington delegation continued to revolve around detention and related matters, notably the work carried out in relation to detainees/internees in Guantanamo Bay. Regular visits to detention facilities in Guantanamo and the US enabled the ICRC to assess the treatment of detainees/internees and their conditions of detention and to share its findings with the US authorities. The ICRC and the authorities intensified their dialogue on a variety of legal questions, despite their divergent interpretations of certain issues.

ICRC delegates visited the 14 detainees/internees formerly held by the CIA and lately transferred to the Defense Department’s custody in Guantanamo Bay.

The ICRC engaged in discussions with the US administration on detention matters concerning Afghanistan, Iraq and undisclosed places of detention and on policy or legal issues falling within the remit of the US administration rather than that of US military field units. The organization also held discussions on a range of legal and operational issues with 18 legal advisers from the State, Defense and Justice departments over a two-day period.

During discussions in Washington in May with the national security advisor and the secretaries of state and defense, the ICRC president reiterated the organization’s concerns over detention in connection with the “war on terror” and other contexts. The ICRC director of law and doctrine and several senior field and headquarters staff also held discussions in Washington at various times with the US administration, congress and policy-makers on all current ICRC operations.

The ICRC launched an ambitious programme to expand its communication outreach among government bodies and civil society, chiefly the academic community, concentrating on the promotion of IHL. It also recruited specialized staff to handle communication and relations with the Organization of American States (OAS).

Cooperation with the American Red Cross continued to flourish through an active dialogue on and joint engagement in operational and thematic issues. For the first time ever an ICRC president was invited to address the American Red Cross’s annual National Convention in Washington, attesting to the consolidation of good relations between the two organizations.

The ICRC reinforced its contacts with the Canadian government and the Canadian Red Cross, undertaking a series of missions to Canada to address technical and strategic issues of common concern. Given the increased deployment of Canadian troops in Afghanistan, the Canadian government and the ICRC began discussing the pertinence of IHL in the Afghan context and standards for the treatment of detainees/internees and their conditions of detention.

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

Throughout 2006, the US authorities in Washington and the ICRC maintained a frank and open dialogue on issues related to US detention in Guantanamo Bay, Afghanistan and Iraq.

Through contacts with various agencies of the US administration and at various levels, the US authorities were requested to define the status and rights of individual detainees/internees and to ensure they fitted into a proper and adequate legal framework providing the relevant procedural safeguards. Likewise, the authorities were urged to comply with the relevant provisions of IHL, in particular the Third or Fourth Geneva Conventions as applicable, and/or other appropriate internationally recognized standards concerning the treatment of detainees/internees and their conditions of detention/interment. There continued to be a disagreement between the ICRC and the US authorities on what constituted an appropriate legal framework for US detention operations in Guantanamo Bay, Afghanistan and Iraq.

The ICRC also reiterated its concerns about a number of people presumed to be held by the United States in undisclosed locations. While the whereabouts and fate of the majority of these individuals remained to be clarified, some progress was made when 14 people previously held as part of a CIA detention programme were transferred to Guantanamo Bay in September and the ICRC was given access to them.

At the end of the year, 396 individuals remained in US custody in Guantanamo Bay, compared to 496 in early 2006. They were visited regularly by the ICRC, as were two other people, one held at Charleston Navy Brig, South Carolina, and the other in Miami Federal Prison. The detaining authorities and the ICRC maintained a confidential working dialogue on the conditions of detention/interment and treatment of the detainees/internees.

In Guantanamo Bay, the ICRC visited detainees/internees in May and again in June after the deaths of three of the
Detainees/internees. Thereafter, the ICRC continued to closely follow developments, particularly with regard to the impact of security measures on conditions of detention. The US authorities in Guantanamo Bay and Washington were presented with reports on the organization’s findings and recommendations. Several specific measures were agreed on to improve the detainees/internees’ conditions.

As in the past, the restoration and maintenance of family links remained a priority throughout the year. Detainees/internees held in Guantanamo Bay were able to restore or maintain contact with family members through the RCM network, which involved over 20 ICRC delegations and Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies worldwide. The ICRC also continued recommending that the detainees/internees in Guantanamo Bay be allowed to receive family visits or speak directly to their family members by telephone, but to no avail.

Regarding repatriations and transfers to other countries and transfers within a country of detainees/internees from the custody of US authorities to that of the national authorities, the ICRC continued in all contexts to remind the US government of its legal and humanitarian obligations to individuals held, and of the principle of non-refoulement.

The repatriation of detainees/internees from Guantanamo Bay to their countries of origin continued, albeit slowly, and the fate of individuals not to be criminally charged remained unclear. The transfer of five Chinese citizens of Uighur origin, followed by three detainees/internees of other nationalities, to Albania heralded the beginning of transfers of detainees/internees to countries other than their own. The ICRC interviewed detainees/internees prior to their repatriation or transfer and conveyed any fears they expressed to the US authorities for review. Where possible the ICRC continued to follow up on the detainees/internees after their repatriation or transfer.

Despite the significant developments in US legislation on detention, long-term detention/internment of individuals in Guantanamo Bay outside a clear legal process remained a serious concern.

In Guantanamo Bay:

- 496 detainees/internees visited, 405 of them monitored individually, including 14 newly registered, during 11 visits to 1 place of detention;
- 4,891 RCMs collected from and 3,353 distributed to detainees/internees;
- 76 detainees/internees interviewed prior to repatriation or transfer to other countries;
- 18 attestations of detention issued.

**AUTHORITIES**

**Organization of American States**

Efforts to strengthen relations with the OAS and other regional bodies remained on course. They included meetings involving the chairperson of the OAS Permanent Council, other key OAS staff and the ICRC president to discuss ICRC priorities and concerns in the OAS region. OAS departments and Permanent Council members were regularly briefed on ICRC operations and concerns. This dialogue in particular helped identify opportunities for mutual support. Attendance of the OAS 36th General Assembly enabled the ICRC to strengthen bilateral ties with 34 member States on humanitarian issues.

- meetings organized by/with the Permanent Council’s Committees on Hemispheric Security and Juridical and Political Affairs allowed the ICRC to express its concerns regarding various topics, including: the protection of persons in situations of internal tensions; measures to combat and eradicate the illicit trade in small weapons; IHL instruction and national implementation; and ICRC/OAS/UN cooperation in humanitarian affairs;
- the OAS 36th General Assembly adopted 13 resolutions that cited IHL, for which the ICRC provided technical advice; the ICRC had proposed initial drafts for 2 of the resolutions, one on the implementation of IHL in domestic legislation and the other on the protection of missing persons and of their families and measures to prevent disappearances;
- dialogue on IHL engaged in with OAS member States following an OAS General Assembly resolution on the promotion of and respect for IHL.

**United States**

Developments concerning the legal framework for US detention in the fight against “terrorism” paved the way for enhanced dialogue between the administration and the ICRC on issues of key concern. However, frank and meaningful as it was, the dialogue achieved little substantive outcome. While the administration clearly recognized the pertinence of IHL, its interpretation of many IHL provisions remained at odds with that of the ICRC.

The Department of State, the National Security Council and congress (including the Senate Armed Services Committee, Congressional Human Rights Caucus and Senate Republican Policy Committee), among other State bodies, participated in regular meetings, briefings and presentations involving the ICRC. Topics covered included:

- the Military Commissions Act of 2006;
- the qualification of conflicts and review of the concept of “unlawful enemy combatants”;
- the transfer of detainees/internees from the custody of the United States to other countries;
- ICRC operations;
- the 29th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent;
- civil-military relations and policies on cooperation in humanitarian activities.

**ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS**

The US Defense Department, regional and functional combatant commands, congressional offices and the ICRC maintained a dialogue on military doctrine and operations.

- briefings on the ICRC made at US military schools and colleges;
- 10 US military schools and colleges visited, relations established with 1 other; students at the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation attended an IHL course;
- the US military provided with advice in the revision of field manuals and procedures.
Participants from the Canadian Forces College and students from Canada’s International Military Assistance Training Team attended lectures on the ICRC.

- the Canadian Red Cross supported in developing its involvement in Canadian military training in IHL

**CIVIL SOCIETY**

The ICRC expanded its capacity to interact with North American civil society and to promote IHL and its mandate and work.

- network of contacts expanded to include leading national security correspondents; humanitarian topics and the ICRC frequently featured in leading local, national and international broadcasts and articles in the United States and Canada; major US and Canadian media mobilized for the visits of the ICRC president and high-ranking delegates
- a national survey on IHL instruction in the United States conducted with a US university
- relations consolidated with Harvard University
- policy speech delivered by the ICRC president at Georgetown University
- strategy developed to broaden relations with academia, think-tanks, NGOs and the Hispanic media in the United States

**RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT**

The American and Canadian Red Cross Societies and the ICRC significantly strengthened their cooperation.

The American Red Cross:

- invited the ICRC president to address its National Convention, chiefly on the admission to the Movement of Israel’s Magen David Adom and the Palestine Red Crescent Society;
- invited the ICRC president to give a speech at Georgetown University;
- chairman and the ICRC president briefed congress on American Red Cross and ICRC activities in Chad and Ethiopia, following the chairman’s visit to Red Cross operations in these countries;
- leadership in 4 branches attended presentations on IHL and the ICRC;
- and the ICRC made joint public communications on the management of major humanitarian issues, including the Lebanon crisis;
- in Buenos Aires, Argentina, attended one of four conferences on the restoration of family links organized by the ICRC worldwide;
- received ICRC support in training teachers in the Exploring Humanitarian Law programme in Texas;
- received ICRC technical advice in drafting a comprehensive plan to strengthen its tracing and IHL dissemination capacity;
- agreed on areas of future cooperation with the ICRC, including the exchange or secondment of staff.

The Canadian Red Cross:

- and the ICRC developed a programme and trained personnel to monitor detained immigrants;
- developed an IHL university course and the Exploring Humanitarian Law programme, including teacher-training, with ICRC support;
- continued promoting the Movement and IHL among the authorities, civil society and the armed forces and providing personnel and funds to the ICRC;
- received support from the International Federation and the ICRC to conduct 2 basic training courses for Canadian Red Cross personnel intended for international deployment;
- and the ICRC made joint public communications on the management of major humanitarian issues, including the war in Afghanistan;
- in Buenos Aires, Argentina, attended one of four conferences on the restoration of family links organized by the ICRC worldwide.
The multiple tasks and activities of the UN often have implications of a humanitarian nature. Operating since 1983, the ICRC delegation to the UN serves as a support and a liaison for ICRC operational and legal initiatives. The delegation conveys the ICRC's viewpoint, keeps abreast of trends and developments relating to humanitarian issues and promotes IHL.

**CONTEXT**

### Security Council

Africa and the Middle East remained high on the Security Council's agenda. The situations in Côte d'Ivoire and Sudan (notably Darfur), the Eritrea-Ethiopia dispute and the armed conflict in Lebanon all posed particular challenges to the Council's response capacity and authority. The Council had to contend with the growing tension surrounding the election of a Hamas government in the Palestinian territories and Israel's resumption of military operations in the Gaza Strip. The hostilities in Lebanon hampered the Council's efforts to aid Lebanon in re-establishing full sovereignty over its territory following the Syrian troop withdrawal and investigations into the assassination of former Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Hariri. Similarly, the nuclear aspirations of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea caused heightened concern.

Other countries or regions debated or touched on by the Council, and where the ICRC had operations or a presence, included Afghanistan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Georgia/Abkhazia, Haiti, Liberia, Myanmar, Somalia and Timor-Leste.

To bolster the protection of civilians in armed conflict, the Council adopted two resolutions, one endorsing the concept of the "responsibility to protect" and the other on the protection of journalists in armed conflict.

### UN General Assembly

Although implementation of UN reforms and decisions taken at the World Summit in 2005 remained slow, there were achievements: the establishment of the new Human Rights Council replacing the Human Rights Commission; the election of the Organizational Committee of the recently established Peacebuilding Commission, enabling this new UN body, tasked with addressing post-conflict situations, to become a reality; and the General Assembly's adoption of a UN counter-terrorism strategy.

The 61st annual session, which opened in September, focused on implementation of the Millennium Development Goals, notably the eradication of poverty, and on breaking the deadlock in international trade negotiations. Other salient topics addressed were: the crises in the Middle East and Darfur (Sudan); efforts to curb the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction; the fight against "terrorism" and the challenge it posed to human rights and the rule of law; and the role and reforms of the Security Council.

Human Rights Council achievements reported to the General Assembly included the adoption of two new conventions: the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

The General Assembly also adopted a resolution on the status of the 1977 Additional Protocols.

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**EXPENDITURE (IN KCHF)**

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*of which: Overheads 123*

**IMPLEMENTATION RATE**

Expenditure/yearly budget 89%

**PERSONNEL**

- 3 expatriates
- 6 national staff (daily workers not included)

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In 2006, the ICRC:

- President Jakob Kellenberger met UN Security Council members and the UN secretary-general in New York to exchange views on humanitarian issues;
- heads of operations for Latin America and the Horn of Africa held meetings with staff of the UN Secretariat in New York and briefed selected UN member States on ICRC operations in these regions;
- with New York University, organized an IHL seminar for UN diplomats;
- assisted with preparations for a UN conference on small arms and with negotiations on 2 draft IHL conventions, and monitored negotiations leading to the creation of the UN Human Rights Council and the adoption of a UN counter-"terrorism" strategy;
- followed debates on humanitarian matters and helped prepare 2 Security Council resolutions;
- attended the 61st General Assembly.
UN Secretariat
Reform of the Secretariat and its management to streamline the UN’s work programme remained a top priority for the General Assembly. The Fifth Committee (on finance and administration) deliberated the secretary-general’s proposals to strengthen the Secretariat. Numerous informal consultations were held as part of the effort to facilitate the review of mandates assigned to the Secretariat.

In response to the recommendations of the 2005 World Summit, the secretary-general assembled a panel of experts in February to explore ways of improving UN coherence and efficiency in the domains of development, humanitarian assistance and the environment. The 13-member panel’s recommendations were submitted to the 61st General Assembly for consideration.

Kofi Annan concluded his ten-year tenure as UN secretary-general at the end of December 2006, handing over to his successor, Ban Ki-moon of South Korea.

ICRC ACTION
The delegation in New York remained in regular contact with numerous UN bodies and member States, observers, think-tanks, academic institutions and the media. It endeavoured to deepen understanding in the UN and its various components of topical humanitarian issues and to pave the way for ICRC activities. It sought to secure acceptance of its mandate and neutral, independent approach to humanitarian action, while remaining committed to coordination among all members of the humanitarian community. It also worked to encourage the UN to take the ICRC’s specific concerns into account in any of its deliberations with direct implications for humanitarian action.

The ICRC monitored issues of humanitarian and legal concern addressed by the General Assembly and, where relevant, informed the UN Secretariat, member States and various organizations of the ICRC’s position and operational activities or provided expertise in IHL.

The ICRC pursued stronger ties within the UN Secretariat regarding peacekeeping, training standards for UN peacekeepers and the emergence of a common UN peacekeeping doctrine. Discussions with the Department of Peacekeeping Operations centred on concerns in shared operational environments, IHL and divergent principles on peacekeeping and humanitarian action.

Field experience and technical expertise on topical issues were shared with the UN and its agencies, permanent missions to the UN and civil society. In addition, the ICRC contributed its IHL expertise to the review or development of international norms, the reform of the humanitarian response system and the drafting of Security Council resolutions.

As in past years, the ICRC participated in various mechanisms for the coordination of humanitarian action both within the UN and with other partners. It actively followed preparations for the humanitarian segment of the Economic and Social Council and negotiations on resolutions during the General Assembly’s annual session.

Contacts with the media accredited to the UN were strengthened. The UN, donor countries and Security Council members were updated on ICRC operations. The ICRC continued to participate in round-table talks, discussion groups and workshops on topics of concern to it.

AUTHORITIES
UN Security Council
Through monthly meetings, the Security Council was kept informed of ICRC concerns about operational developments on the Council’s agenda and contexts where the organization was working. In October, Council members met President Jakob Kellenberger informally and exchanged views with him on issues of concern to the ICRC.

Security Council debates on topics of interest were closely followed by the ICRC. These included the situations in the Great Lakes region of Africa and the Middle East, developments in Liberia and Haiti and a briefing by the African Union president. Other topics monitored were measures to counter “terrorism”, the protection of civilians in armed conflict and of children from recruitment as soldiers and the proliferation of small arms. Also of interest were debates on women, peace and security, cooperation between the UN and regional organizations, and the work of UN criminal tribunals and the International Criminal Court.

The ICRC provided IHL expertise in the preparation of two Security Council resolutions, one on the protection of civilians and the other on the protection of journalists in armed conflicts.

UN General Assembly
The General Assembly’s efforts to implement decisions of the 2005 World Summit were keenly followed by the ICRC as an observer. So, too, were debates on the creation of the Human Rights Council and consultations on other topics with implications for IHL and human rights or pertinent to humanitarian action and coordination. Also monitored were reforms of the UN Secretariat, as related proposals and decisions – notably on structural changes – could, if implemented, affect the ICRC’s activities and working methods.

During its 61st annual session, the General Assembly committees, member States and observers were familiarized with the ICRC’s position on a range of issues, including: missing persons; protection of children in armed conflict; IDPs; the prohibition of torture; the suffering caused by certain weapons in armed conflict; and the status of the 1977 Additional Protocols.

Permanen missions to the UN were supported in pushing for the speedy adoption, by the 61st General Assembly, of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance. They were also kept abreast of ICRC positions and concerns through bilateral contacts, briefings and discussions.

The Review Conference of the UN Programme of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons received ICRC support in the form of operational and legal expertise, as did the development and review of international norms, such as those on “terrorism”.

The ICRC attended a meeting of the Friends of the International Criminal Court as an observer.

Staff of the UN Secretariat and representatives of selected UN member States attended briefings on ICRC operations in Haiti, Somalia and Sudan (including Darfur) given by the ICRC heads of operations for Latin America and the Horn of Africa during their visit to New York.
New York University School of Law again cooperated with the ICRC in organizing an IHL seminar, attended by over 100 UN diplomats. The seminar included a section on the ICRC’s study on customary international humanitarian law.

**UN Secretariat and associated structures**

Current challenges facing humanitarian action were discussed in a meeting between UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan and President Kellenberger during his visit to New York. ICRC concerns on specific crises and humanitarian needs also came up for discussion.

Meetings with various departments of the Secretariat covered: contexts where the two organizations were active; IHL implementation; the protection of civilians in armed conflict; IHL and acts of “terrorism”; international justice, including the International Criminal Court and UN or mixed tribunals; the implementation of weapons treaties; and issues related to UN peacekeeping.

The Inter-Agency Standing Committee, chaired by the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, was regularly updated on ICRC operations. The ICRC attended as a “standing invitee” sessions on reforms of the humanitarian response system, integrated peacekeeping missions and other pertinent issues. It also attended regular meetings of the Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action and other working groups.

The relevant UN agencies and the ICRC maintained dialogue on a range of operational and thematic issues.

**ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS**

Once again, naval officers from several countries in training at the Naval Staff College in Newport, Rhode Island, had the opportunity to attend presentations on the ICRC’s role and IHL.

**CIVIL SOCIETY**

Efforts to maintain or further develop contacts with the media, NGOs, academia and other sectors of civil society remained crucial to the promotion of IHL and the Movement. To this end, round-tables, discussion groups, meetings and other activities with various audiences were organized. Organizations, think-thanks and universities continued to invite the ICRC to round-tables and other forums on topics related to its mandate. In particular, it attended Human Rights Watch meetings and kept in contact with the Coalition for the International Criminal Court.

In addition, the ICRC maintained contact with the UN media service and media accredited to the UN, private organizations and individuals.

Various organizations, academics, representatives of permanent missions and the public consulted the delegation on IHL and the ICRC.
MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

ICRC delegation
ICRC regional delegation
ICRC mission

DELEGATIONS
Algeria
Egypt
Iran, Islamic Republic of
Iraq
Israel, the Occupied and Autonomous Territories
Jordan
Lebanon
Syrian Arab Republic
Yemen

REGIONAL DELEGATIONS
Kuwait
Tunis

EXPENDITURE (IN KCHF)
Protection
37,568
Assistance
85,251
Prevention
15,390
Cooperation with National Societies
19,309
General
117

157,634 of which: Overheads 9,243

Implementation rate
74%
In 2006, the ICRC remained at the forefront of humanitarian action to respond to the needs of victims of past and present conflicts in the Middle East and North Africa. ICRC operations in Iraq, in Israel and the occupied and autonomous territories and in Lebanon were by far the organization’s largest in the region and amongst its most extensive worldwide.

As a priority, the ICRC sought compliance by all parties with the provisions of IHL relative to the conduct of hostilities and/or occupation. It also endeavoured to ensure that people directly affected by armed conflict or the consequences of occupation had access to food, water, sanitation and medical care and that people deprived of their freedom were treated humanely.

Activities varied according to the ICRC’s operational objectives but in all cases were rooted in the organization’s strict principles of independence, neutrality and impartiality. In line with these principles, the ICRC endeavoured to secure unhindered and safe access to all victims of armed conflict and internal violence and to establish contact with the belligerent parties to obtain such access and to advocate respect for IHL.

Large-scale, multifaceted assistance programmes conducted by the ICRC benefited hundreds of thousands of people directly affected by the armed conflicts in Iraq and Lebanon or by the consequences of occupation and the deepening humanitarian crisis in the Palestinian territories. In Yemen, a smaller-scale emergency relief operation was mounted with the Yemen Red Crescent Society to assist civilians caught up in recurring clashes between government forces and armed groups in the north of the country.

Iraq was again the most challenging operational environment for the ICRC owing to the high level of insecurity in many parts of the country, which severely hampered or prevented direct access to the beleaguered population, whose needs remained immense. Despite the security constraints, the ICRC was able to carry out a wide range of activities in the country, albeit at a level far below existing needs and its own emergency response capacity. Families displaced by the fighting or sectarian violence received emergency relief directly from the ICRC or through the Iraqi Red Crescent. Major hospitals struggling to cope with daily mass-casualty emergencies were regularly provided with medical supplies, and emergency repair and rehabilitation work kept numerous health, water and sanitation facilities serving millions of Iraqis functioning.

When hostilities broke out in Lebanon, the ICRC rapidly deployed the full range of its resources. A security notification system was established with the belligerent parties to ensure safe access for relief and medical personnel to conflict-affected populations, and the ICRC facilitated the movements of humanitarian convoys sent in by many National Societies. Working alongside the Lebanese Red Cross Society, the ICRC delivered medical supplies, generators and fuel to health facilities treating the wounded and chronically ill. Within the limits of the highly volatile security environment, the ICRC provided food, water and household essentials to people trapped in their villages or displaced by the fighting. Following the ceasefire, it conducted larger distributions of food and household items in areas of south Lebanon inaccessible during the phase of open hostilities. In addition, access to clean water was restored for hundreds of thousands of people.

Humanitarian needs in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank grew significantly over the year as the full impact of the freezing of key donor support to the Hamas-led Palestinian government took hold, compounding an already dire situation caused by stringent Israeli-imposed mobility restrictions and Israeli military operations. In response, the ICRC expanded its protection and assistance activities. Notably, hospitals run by the Palestine Red Crescent Society, along with other hospitals in the occupied territories, were given substantially increased aid to help them to continue providing vital services. Thousands of destitute Palestinians received planned and ad hoc food aid and livelihood support, and cash-for-work projects were implemented in several of the most impoverished Palestinian communities. Household kits were issued to Palestinians whose homes had been levelled or confiscated to clear land for the construction of the West Bank barrier or for settlement expansion or because they had been built without construction permits. Work also continued with the Palestinian water authority to rehabilitate or establish water and sanitation infrastructure in poorly served communities.

Another ongoing ICRC concern was to address the humanitarian consequences of past or recurring internal violence in various countries in the region. In Algeria, for example, the ICRC maintained technical and financial assistance to the National Society’s psychological support and vocational training programmes to help women overcome the trauma of violence and reintegrate into society.

In many countries of the region affected by past or current armed conflict or internal violence, demand remained high for physical rehabilitation services for the disabled, including many mine victims. The ICRC therefore maintained its support to limb-fitting centres in Algeria, Iraq, Lebanon, the Syrian Arab Republic and Yemen.

ICRC visits continued to people interned or detained in Algeria, Iraq, Israel and the Palestinian territories, Jordan, Kuwait, Mauritania and Tunisia, and dialogue was pursued with the authorities in other countries in the region with a view to securing access to people in custody, notably in Lebanon, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Morocco, the Syrian Arab Republic and Yemen.

The ICRC maintained a constructive dialogue with the detaining authorities in countries where it carried out visits and actively sought to improve the living conditions and treatment of detainees/internees through representations, when necessary, to the relevant authorities.

The largest numbers of detainees visited were in Iraq and Israel. In Iraq, more than 27,000 people held by the multinational forces and over 5,000 in the custody of the Kurdish regional authorities were visited during the year. In addition, the ICRC pursued discussions with the central Iraqi authorities with a view to concluding an agreement on ICRC visits to places of detention under their control. In Israel, over 20,000 Palestinian detainees benefited from ICRC visits or other services such as the exchange of RCMs, the organization of family visits or the provision of detention certificates.

A particular effort was made to gain or increase access to security detainees held in connection with the so-called “global war on terror”. Visits were made to people imprisoned in Egypt, Morocco, Tunisia and Yemen after their transfer from US detention facilities abroad. By the end of the year, no date had been agreed with the Saudi authorities for the ICRC to visit detainees held in Saudi Arabia after their transfer from the Guantanamo Bay Naval Station in Cuba.

At year-end, despite persistent efforts, the ICRC had not been granted access to visit Israeli soldiers held by Hezbollah or to...
resumes visits to Hezbollah fighters in Israeli custody, suspended at the end of September. It had not succeeded either in visiting the Israeli soldier held in the Gaza Strip by Hamas, despite continuous efforts to do so.

Emphasis was also placed on the specific needs of women detainees. In Yemen, for example, support was maintained to vocational training and literacy courses for female detainees to enhance their prospects after release.

Tens of thousands of people benefited from the ICRC family visits programmes for people deprived of their freedom, particularly in Iraq and in Israel and the occupied territories. Moreover, thousands of former internees or detainees in various countries were issued with certificates of detention by the ICRC, which sometimes qualified them to obtain State allowances.

Former members of the Mojahedin-e Khalq movement were repatriated from Iraq to the Islamic Republic of Iran under ICRC auspices, as were a number of other Iranian nationals following their release from places of detention in Afghanistan, Guantanamo Bay and Iraq.

In many countries of the region, demand remained high for ICRC tracing and RCM services as a means to restore or maintain contact with family members detained/interned in their home countries or abroad or living in places such as Iraq where normal communications had been disrupted. In Iraq alone, more than 24,000 RCMs were collected from detainees/internees and over 18,000 RCMs delivered to them in 2006.

Several countries in the region, such as Egypt, Jordan, the Syrian Arab Republic and Yemen, hosted increasing numbers of refugees, many of whom were able to locate and restore contact with their families by means of RCMs. Hundreds of refugees were issued with ICRC travel documents to facilitate family reunification or resettlement in third countries.

The ICRC also facilitated travel for Palestinians affected by mobility restrictions wishing to visit or be reunited with family members living in other parts of the occupied territories or in Jordan, as well as contacts between Syrian nationals in the occupied Golan and their families in the Syrian Arab Republic.

Acting as a neutral intermediary, the ICRC pursued action to address unresolved humanitarian issues related to past conflicts in the region, notably the numerous Arab-Israeli wars from 1948 onwards, the 1980–88 Iran-Iraq conflict, the 1990–91 Gulf War, the 1975–91 Western Sahara conflict and the 1975–91 civil war in Lebanon. This mainly involved efforts to resolve cases of persons – both military and civilian – who went missing during those conflicts and whose fate remained unknown.

The ICRC continued to chair meetings of the Tripartite Commission and its Technical Sub-committee set up to clarify cases of persons missing from the 1990–91 Gulf War. While the security situation in Iraq slowed down the exhumation and identification process there, an Iraqi delegation, accompanied by ICRC delegates, was authorized by the Saudi authorities to visit known gravesites in Saudi Arabia of Iraqis killed during that conflict.

Working in the framework of a joint mechanism agreed upon in February 2004, the ICRC and the Iranian authorities made marked progress in resolving cases of POWs unaccounted for in connection with the 1980–88 Iran-Iraq war. Since the mechanism was activated, several hundred such cases had been clarified through research activities carried out by the Iranian authorities and as a result of information collected by the ICRC from families both in the Islamic Republic of Iran and in Iraq. A preliminary bilateral meeting between the two countries on the issue of missing persons from the 1980–88 war was planned to take place under ICRC auspices in Geneva, Switzerland in 2007.

Work continued with the Moroccan authorities and the Polisario Front to resolve the cases of combatants and civilians from both sides still missing in connection with the Western Sahara conflict.

Forensic experts in Lebanon received ICRC guidelines for the exhumation and identification of conflict-related human remains found in gravesites in the country. The ICRC also provided forensic equipment and data-collection/management training to the Medico-Legal Institute in Baghdad and its branches in other locations to enhance their capacities to identify human remains. A number of morgues in Baghdad hospitals and elsewhere in the country were rehabilitated to help the authorities concerned cope with the influx of bodies.

Promoting greater knowledge, acceptance and implementation of IHL throughout the region, in cooperation with the Cairo-based League of Arab States, remained the main task of the ICRC in Egypt. To this end, it stepped up efforts to encourage adherence to IHL and its integration into military training and doctrine and into school and university curricula.

As part of this process, the Cairo delegation organized regional seminars on IHL and produced written and audiovisual materials on IHL translated into Arabic for distribution to governments and civil society audiences in the region. Governments were also assisted by the ICRC’s legal advisory service in assessing the compatibility of national legislation with IHL and adapting it accordingly.

Relations were reinforced with government authorities and influential sectors of civil society, as well as with religious circles and militant groups, in order to increase acceptance of and support for the ICRC’s work and to reassert the relevance of IHL in contemporary forms of armed conflict and violence.

During the year, the National Societies of Iraq, Israel, Lebanon, the Palestinian territories, the Syrian Arab Republic and Yemen were pivotal in enabling the ICRC to deliver emergency aid to people directly affected by armed conflict or occupation. In many countries of the region, National Societies were also important partners in the collection and distribution of RCMs.

Cooperation with National Societies remained a key component of ICRC activities in the region. The primary aim was to strengthen National Society capacities to respond to emergencies, particularly with respect to ambulance services, first aid, tracing, restoring family links and mine action, and to spread awareness of IHL.

Various forms of material, training and financial support were extended to National Societies, according to needs.

Close capacity-based and result-oriented coordination was maintained with Movement partners, UN agencies and other humanitarian actors, particularly in conflict zones, in order to maximize impact and avoid gaps or duplication of effort.
The ICRC has been working in Algeria, with some interruptions, since the 1954–1962 Algerian war of independence. It carries out visits to people held in places of detention run by the Ministry of Justice and to people remanded in custody in police stations and gendarmeries. It cooperates closely with the Algerian Red Crescent Society, in particular supporting its efforts to assist women and child victims of violence and to strengthen its national first-aid network. The ICRC also works to promote IHL among Algerian civil society, the authorities and the armed forces.

**KEY POINTS**

- In 2006, the ICRC:
  - continued visiting prisons, police stations and gendarmeries to assess the treatment and living conditions of people deprived of their freedom;
  - worked with the Algerian Red Crescent to restore contact between families in Algeria and close relatives detained/interned abroad or living in countries where conflict had disrupted communications;
  - maintained technical and financial assistance to the National Society’s psychological support and vocational training programmes designed to help women and children overcome the trauma of violence and to reintegrate into society;
  - strengthened National Society capacity in the areas of first aid, dissemination, tracing and restoration of family links;
  - reinforced contacts with Algerian universities to promote the inclusion of IHL in law curricula;
  - financially assisted a prosthetic/orthotic production unit using ICRC technology to fit destitute Algerian amputees.

**CONTEXT**

The government pursued implementation of the Charter for Peace and National Reconciliation adopted by national referendum in 2005, which proposed an amnesty for people accused of involvement in the years of intense civil strife that followed Algerian general elections in 1992, and compensation for the families of victims. This led to the release of a number of people detained in connection with the violence of the 1990s and the drawing up of a compensation plan for families who had lost loved ones. Sporadic clashes nevertheless persisted between Algerian security forces and armed militants.

Increased oil revenues helped to finance government-backed social and economic reform and development programmes. The government also went ahead with reform of the country’s judicial and penitentiary systems and the privatization of certain business sectors with a view to boosting the economy and reducing unemployment.

**EXPENDITURE (IN KCHF)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Protection</td>
<td>606</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assistance</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prevention</td>
<td>503</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cooperation with National Societies</td>
<td>648</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,783</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>of which: Overheads</strong></td>
<td><strong>109</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**IMPLEMENTATION RATE**

Expenditure/yearly budget: 71%
ICRC ACTION

ICRC activities in Algeria focused mainly on visits to places of detention to assess the treatment and living conditions of people deprived of their freedom and on strengthening the capacity of the Algerian Red Crescent Society to deliver humanitarian services.

The ICRC maintained its assistance to the National Society’s psychological support and vocational training programmes for women and children traumatized by violence. It also worked closely with National Society staff and volunteers at regional and local level to help them develop the multidisciplinary skills needed to respond effectively to emergencies. With the National Society, it assessed further material and training needs, particularly in the fields of first aid, psychological support, tracing and communication.

Another priority for the ICRC was to develop contacts with the Algerian authorities and key sectors of civil society, such as the media, to promote IHL and enlist their support for the organization’s humanitarian mandate and activities.

CIVILIANS

In cooperation with the National Society, the ICRC provided tracing and RCM services to help families in Algeria locate and stay in touch with family members detained/interned abroad or living in countries where communications had been disrupted by conflict.

- 26 RCMs collected and 112 distributed
- new tracing request registered for 1 person; 1 person located; 24 people (12 females, 7 minors at the time of disappearance) still being sought

The ICRC continued to support Algerian Red Crescent programmes for women and children suffering the effects of violence (see Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement).

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

The ICRC continued to visit detainees in penitentiary centres under the terms of an agreement concluded with the Ministry of Justice in 1999. At the end of 2006, an estimated 45,000 people were being held in 127 detention facilities under the authority of the Ministry of Justice. Visits also continued to people remanded in custody in police stations and gendarmeries.

During visits, the ICRC monitored detainee treatment and living conditions. Particular attention was paid to women, minors and foreign detainees and to respect for judicial guarantees.

After each visit, the observations and recommendations of ICRC delegates were submitted to the authorities directly in charge of the detention facilities, as well as to the State prosecutors concerned. The ICRC also submitted to the detaining authorities a summary report on detention visits carried out in 2005 in penitentiary centres, as well as three reports on its conclusions and recommendations concerning places of temporary detention.

- 15,839 detainees visited, 130 (2 females, 2 minors) of them monitored individually, including 118 newly registered (2 minors), during 56 visits to 55 places of detention

WOUNDED AND SICK

As part of an ongoing programme initiated in 2001, the ICRC kept up its financial support to the Ben Aknoun physical rehabilitation centre in Algiers, which uses low-cost polypropylene technology and ICRC materials to produce artificial limbs and other orthopaedic appliances for the disabled.

- 40 people (6 women and 7 children) received services at the ICRC-supported physical rehabilitation centre
- 10 new patients (1 woman and 1 child) fitted with prostheses and 27 (5 women and 4 children) with orthoses
- 14 prostheses (2 for women and 2 for children) and 37 orthoses (6 for women and 6 for children) delivered

AUTHORITIES

Regular meetings were held with the director of legislation and research at the Ministry of Justice to assess progress made towards the integration of IHL into Algerian legislation. A draft law on the protection of the emblem and another on the repression of crimes against humanity were about to be sent to parliament for approval as the year ended.

A proposal to establish a national committee on the implementation of IHL was also awaiting approval by the Algerian president.

ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

The ICRC reiterated its readiness to assist the Algerian authorities in incorporating the systematic teaching of IHL into the theoretical and practical instruction programmes of the Algerian armed forces.

CIVIL SOCIETY

The ICRC broadened its network of contacts with academic circles and the media to promote greater knowledge of IHL and to...
encourage the teaching of the subject at university level and the inclusion of basic IHL principles in secondary school curricula. During 2006:

- the ICRC gave 2 presentations at the Faculty of Islamic Studies in Algiers on IHL, the Movement and the ICRC mandate;
- 50 law students attended a first seminar on IHL at Algiers University, and 50 law lecturers received training in IHL;
- 50 students and 25 judges at the national magistrates school attended 2 seminars on the role of judges in the implementation of IHL;
- the ICRC held seminars for and meetings with representatives of the Algerian media leading to the publication of several articles in the press raising public awareness of the ICRC’s mandate and activities and IHL;
- for the first time, 2 Algerian students participated in a moot court competition on IHL;
- a collection of the main IHL instruments, with a preface by the Algerian minister for foreign affairs, was compiled in collaboration with 25 Algerian legal experts;
- the ICRC’s Exploring Humanitarian Law programme, launched in Algeria in October 2005, continued to be pilot-tested with positive results in a number of schools near Algiers, and teachers involved in the programme received further training;
- students regularly consulted a library of IHL publications set up at the ICRC delegation in Algiers.

**RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT**

The National Society, with ICRC support, organized two refresher courses for 41 first-aid trainers from the western and southern regions of Algeria, which included a presentation on stress management by the staff involved in the psychological support programme. In addition, 28 future trainers received initial first-aid training.

A standard training methodology was tested and, based on the results, was to be introduced in all first-aid courses. The Algerian Red Crescent’s national training team also carried out missions to various regions of Algeria to monitor the quality of local first-aid training.

As in previous years, the ICRC provided technical, training and material support to the National Society’s programme to help women and children overcome the trauma of violence and to ease their reintegration into society through psychological support and vocational training. In the context of this programme, 40 monitors at vocational and psychological support centres across the country received training to develop their capacities to identify and help women and children suffering from the effects of violence.

The ICRC also covered salaries and the transport and communication costs incurred by National Society tracing staff and volunteers in delivering and collecting RCMs between Algerian nationals detained/interned abroad and their families in Algeria.

The Algerian Red Crescent continued to publish a regular newsletter and to maintain a website with ICRC support. The ICRC also contributed to the organization of several meetings attended by National Society communication volunteers from around the country to coordinate their activities and share experiences.

The National Society and the ICRC held discussions on developments regarding the additional emblem and the Seville Agreement.
The ICRC has been in Egypt, with some interruptions, since the beginning of the Second World War. The delegation works primarily as a regional centre to promote the national implementation of IHL and its incorporation into military training and academic curricula in Egypt and elsewhere in the Arab world. The Cairo-based regional legal advisory, communication and documentation centre, working in close cooperation with the League of Arab States, plays an important role in this process. The ICRC supports the work of the Egyptian Red Crescent Society. It has also expressed its interest in visiting people deprived of their freedom in Egypt.

KEY POINTS

In 2006, the ICRC:

- promoted and supported mechanisms to incorporate IHL into national legislation, into university and school curricula and into the teaching and training programmes of national armed forces in the Arab world;
- organized regional conferences and workshops on IHL, in conjunction with the League of Arab States and national authorities, for a broad range of Arab government, military and academic audiences to promote greater understanding and acceptance of IHL in the Arab world;
- enabled asylum seekers and refugees to trace and restore contact with family members in their home countries and helped re-establish links between people in Egypt and their family members detained/interned abroad;
- issued travel documents to recognized refugees whenever necessary in order to facilitate their resettlement in third countries;
- cooperated with the Egyptian Red Crescent Society on a range of humanitarian issues, including the provision of emergency relief to thousands of Palestinian civilians stranded at the Rafah crossing point between Egypt and the Gaza Strip owing to Israeli border closures;
- developed interaction with key elements of civil society, including human rights organizations and the media, to promote knowledge of and support for the ICRC’s mandate and activities, as well as its position on major IHL-related issues.

CONTEXT

Egypt continued to play a key intermediary role in efforts to defuse tensions in the region, particularly in the contexts of the Israeli-Palestinian crisis and the conflicts in Lebanon and Iraq, as well as in Sudan. It initiated bilateral dialogue with the new Israeli and Palestinian governments aimed, inter alia, at encouraging the formation of a Palestinian coalition government to end Palestinian factional infighting, facilitating negotiations for the release of Israeli and Palestinian detainees and reviving the stalled Middle East peace process.

Political tensions in Egypt persisted following the September 2005 election in which President Hosni Mubarak won a fifth six-year term of office, and the subsequent legislative elections in which independent candidates close to the banned Muslim Brotherhood movement secured 20% of the vote, a fivefold increase in their legislative representation. Despite a presidential pledge to pursue political and economic reforms, parliament approved a proposal by the president to postpone municipal elections for two years, and the authorities denied official recognition to 12 new political parties.

New bomb attacks occurred in the Red Sea tourist resort of Dahab in April, killing over 20 people and injuring another 60. Almost simultaneous suicide attacks targeted international peacekeeping forces and local police in the northern Sinai, causing further casualties. A number of people alleged to have been behind the attacks were killed in clashes with security forces deployed in the region.

Large numbers of people fleeing war, internal violence and economic hardship continued to enter Egypt seeking asylum, refugee status or resettlement in third countries. Although primarily from Sudan, a significant portion also came from other countries in the same region.

In September, Egypt announced that it planned to relaunch its civil nuclear energy programme in order to diversify its sources of energy.

EXPENDITURE (IN KCHF)

- Protection 206
- Assistance -
- Prevention 722
- Cooperation with National Societies 97
- General -

\[1,026\]

\(\text{of which: Overheads} \ 63\)

IMPLEMENTATION RATE

Expenditure/yearly budget 86%

PERSONNEL

4 expatriates
38 national staff (daily workers not included)

KEY POINTS

In 2006, the ICRC:

- promoted and supported mechanisms to incorporate IHL into national legislation, into university and school curricula and into the teaching and training programmes of national armed forces in the Arab world;
- organized regional conferences and workshops on IHL, in conjunction with the League of Arab States and national authorities, for a broad range of Arab government, military and academic audiences to promote greater understanding and acceptance of IHL in the Arab world;
- enabled asylum seekers and refugees to trace and restore contact with family members in their home countries and helped re-establish links between people in Egypt and their family members detained/interned abroad;
- issued travel documents to recognized refugees whenever necessary in order to facilitate their resettlement in third countries;
- cooperated with the Egyptian Red Crescent Society on a range of humanitarian issues, including the provision of emergency relief to thousands of Palestinian civilians stranded at the Rafah crossing point between Egypt and the Gaza Strip owing to Israeli border closures;
- developed interaction with key elements of civil society, including human rights organizations and the media, to promote knowledge of and support for the ICRC’s mandate and activities, as well as its position on major IHL-related issues.

The government took a firmer stance on public demonstrations and political opponents, including dissident journalists and members of the judiciary, and its security forces made an increasing number of arrests. It also extended the state of emergency, in force since 1981, by another two years, pending the enactment of new anti-terrorist legislation.
Egypt continued to be the focal point for ICRC activities to promote greater knowledge and acceptance of IHL and neutral and independent humanitarian action in countries of the Middle East and North Africa.

Working in close cooperation with the Cairo-based League of Arab States, the ICRC reinforced its advocacy role aimed at persuading Egyptian and other Arab governments to accede to IHL instruments or to implement those already ratified. As part of that process, the ICRC’s legal advisory service conducted studies in a number of Arab countries to assess the compatibility of their national legislation with IHL, as a means of helping governments modify their respective laws, where appropriate. Legal advice was also provided on request to government legislative bodies in drafting model laws incorporating the main provisions of IHL.

Regional and national seminars for government officials, parliamentarians, judges, academics and diplomats throughout the region helped to promote the integration of IHL into university and school curricula and into the theoretical and operational training programmes of national armed forces in Arab League member States.

In support of these activities, the ICRC’s regional documentation and promotion centre in Cairo continued to produce written and audiovisual materials on IHL, including Arabic translations of IHL treaties, for distribution to governments and national implementation bodies. The ICRC’s Cairo-based Arabic website was also widely consulted as a key reference source on IHL-related issues.

Another priority was to promote IHL and knowledge of the ICRC’s specific mandate among key civil society audiences, such as the media, human rights NGOs and faith-based Arab humanitarian organizations.

Cooperation with the Egyptian Red Crescent Society helped to strengthen the National Society’s capacity to deliver humanitarian services in accordance with the Fundamental Principles, particularly in the fields of tracing and restoring family links. Operational cooperation was further developed in assisting thousands of Palestinians stranded for weeks at the Rafah crossing point between Egypt and the Gaza Strip following border closures by the Israeli authorities.

ICRC tracing and RCM services enabled Egyptians to restore and maintain contact with family members detained/interned abroad or living in countries affected by armed conflict. Refugees in Egypt were able to re-establish links with family members in their home countries by the same means. Furthermore, ICRC travel documents issued to refugees – mainly nationals from countries in the Horn of Africa – facilitated the resettlement of thousands of people in third countries.

**CIVILIANS**

**Resettlement of refugees**

Large numbers of people fleeing their home countries for political or economic reasons continued to arrive in Egypt. The majority came from Sudan but also from other countries of the Horn of Africa, the Great Lakes region and West Africa. Only a limited number were granted refugee status and accepted for resettlement in third countries. Those accepted who had no valid identification papers required travel documents issued by the ICRC. This process was coordinated with the embassies of destination countries, UNHCR, the International Organization for Migration, governmental agencies and NGOs. Most recipients of ICRC travel documents were from Sudan and Somalia.

A number of unaccompanied minors also received ICRC travel documents to join family members in other countries.

**PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM**

ICRC delegates were authorized to visit detainees held in Egypt after their release and repatriation from the US detention facility at Guantanamo Bay Naval Station in Cuba. One detainee was visited in 2006.
Discussions continued with the Egyptian authorities regarding ICRC access to all places of detention in the country.

AUTHORITIES

At the regional level, the ICRC focused on encouraging the 22 Arab League member States to accede to treaties and conventions to which they were not yet party, and to incorporate the relevant legal provisions into their national legislation. Countries that had not done so were encouraged to establish national committees for the implementation of IHL, as well as parliamentary commissions on IHL. Twelve countries in the region had created national IHL committees and two were in the process of doing so.

The ICRC legal advisory service provided expertise and IHL-related documentation, as well as draft laws on IHL treaties and conventions, to governments and IHL implementation bodies in the region.

- 18 Arab League member States represented at a regional meeting of government experts on IHL in Cairo in February, organized in conjunction with the Arab League and the Egyptian Ministry of Justice
- Arab Ministry of Justice representatives adopted recommendations concerning ratification and implementation of IHL treaties at their annual meeting in Algiers (see Algeria)
- a progress report on the status of IHL implementation in Arab League member States prepared jointly with the Arab League for publication in 2007
- judges and parliamentarians in Algeria, Jordan, Kuwait, Morocco, Sudan and Tunisia participated in IHL courses conducted by the ICRC
- hundreds of Egyptian civil and military judges and public prosecutors attended IHL courses
- 54 representatives of 19 countries attended the 3rd regional IHL seminar for Arab governmental experts held in Beirut in June (see Lebanon)
- representatives from 20 Arab League member States attended an IHL seminar organized jointly with the regional training centre for Arab diplomats based in the United Arab Emirates (see Kuwait)
- a presentation on the pertinence of IHL in relation to acts of “terrorisms” and anti-“terrorist” operations given at an international conference organized in Cairo by the Egyptian parliament

ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

Cooperation was strengthened with the Arab League’s Military Affairs Department, which invited the ICRC to participate in discussions on IHL-related issues during periodic meetings of Arab military officials at its Cairo headquarters. ICRC assistance was provided in compiling a manual on military terminology, taking into account the provisions of IHL related to armed conflict, and plans were drawn up to expand the programme of IHL instruction for military officers in the region.

- military instructors throughout the region attended IHL training courses in Cairo
- the integration of IHL into military teaching and training programmes promoted in Bahrain, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, the Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia and Yemen
- dissemination sessions held throughout the region aimed at incorporating humanitarian principles and human rights standards into training programmes of national security forces

CIVIL SOCIETY

Media circles in the Arab world were provided with Arabic-language publications, including the quarterly Al Insani (The Humanitarian) magazine, background material and documentary video coverage of ICRC activities and IHL-related issues. The ICRC’s Arabic language website was also further developed, as were new institutional and promotional tools adapted to spreading knowledge of IHL in the Arab world.

- media representatives from 15 Arab countries attended a regional meeting in Casablanca, Morocco, on raising IHL issues in their reporting on armed conflicts (see Tunis)
- 20 Egyptian journalists attended a 2nd ICRC seminar on IHL for media representatives
- 25 human rights and Islamic NGOs from 12 Arab countries attended a workshop on humanitarian action and IHL principles in Cairo
- contacts reinforced with parliamentarians, Islamic religious leaders, NGOs and organizations throughout the region to explain the ICRC’s mandate and activities and to gain acceptance of its independent, neutral and impartial humanitarian action

- 12 countries of the region had introduced the Exploring Humanitarian Law programme by the end of 2006; teacher-training courses in the programme conducted throughout the region
- representatives of the Ministries of Education of 17 Arab States and several National Societies participated in the 4th regional meeting on Exploring Humanitarian Law held in Tunisia (see Tunis)
- an ICRC guide for academic circles on IHL containing model IHL courses and teaching plans, International Criminal Court case studies and IHL provisions related to armed conflict published in Arabic
- several Arab national IHL committees adopted plans to include the study of IHL in university law curricula

RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT

Egyptian Red Crescent staff received further support to strengthen their capacities in the fields of communication, dissemination, emergency preparedness, first aid, tracing and restoring family links.

Thousands of Palestinians were stranded for extended periods on the Egyptian side of the border with the Gaza Strip after Israeli closures. Those stranded received food, water, household essentials and medical assistance supplied by the Sinai branch of the National Society with ICRC support. In addition, hundreds of refugees living in difficult conditions in Cairo were provided with blankets to help them survive the winter.

- 60 National Society youth volunteers attended ICRC workshops on IHL
- tracing officers from 19 National Society branches attended training sessions on restoring family links
The ICRC has been in the Islamic Republic of Iran, with some interruptions, since 1977. It continues work to clarify the fate of POWs registered during the 1980–88 Iran-Iraq war or identified through RCMs. It works to strengthen its partnership with the Iranian Red Crescent Society, particularly in the fields of tracing, the promotion of IHL, the implementation of the Exploring Humanitarian Law programme and mine-risk education. The Iranian committee for the implementation of IHL is an important partner in this process. The ICRC maintains two logistical supply bases in the Islamic Republic of Iran in support of ICRC operations in Iraq and Afghanistan.

KEY POINTS
In 2006, the ICRC:
- worked with the Iranian authorities in the framework of a joint mechanism to clarify the fate of former POWs still unaccounted for in connection with the Iran-Iraq war; assessed forensic needs to enable thousands of human remains from the same conflict to be identified;
- organized the voluntary repatriation of Iranian nationals, including people released from detention/internment in Afghanistan, Guantanamo Bay Naval Station in Cuba, and Iraq;
- held a conference for prominent Islamic scholars from the Islamic Republic of Iran and the region on the protection of war victims under Islamic law and IHL;
- supported the Iranian IHL committee in its work to promote the integration of IHL and its basic principles into national legislation, academic curricula and the teaching and training programmes of the Iranian armed forces;
- further consolidated its partnership with the Iranian Red Crescent Society, particularly in relation to Movement coordination, tracing missing persons, restoring family links and mine-risk education;
- increased logistical support capacity in the Islamic Republic of Iran for ICRC operations in Iraq and Afghanistan.

CONTEXT

Political debate was dominated mainly by the Islamic Republic of Iran’s standoff with the international community over its nuclear programme, with Tehran re-emphasizing that it was being developed for civilian purposes only. In December, the UN Security Council imposed sanctions on the country’s trade in nuclear materials and technology after it failed to respect a 31 August 2006 deadline set by the Council to suspend uranium enrichment. The Iranian government condemned the resolution and vowed to continue uranium enrichment.

Nationwide elections for local councils were held in December in which former Iranian President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani polled the most votes in Tehran to win re-election to a key assembly post.

The year was marked by further violence in the south-eastern province of Sistan-Baluchistan where a number of policemen, soldiers and civilians were reportedly killed or kidnapped by armed groups. In further unrest, at least 8 people were reportedly killed and 46 injured when two bombs exploded in the western province of Khuzestan.

UNHCR continued to work on the voluntary repatriation of Afghan refugees in the framework of a tripartite agreement with the Islamic Republic of Iran and Afghanistan, although the number of Afghan returnees declined considerably in 2006, owing in part to the poor security situation in Afghanistan.

The Islamic Republic of Iran further consolidated relations with neighbouring countries, including Afghanistan and Iraq, as well as with China, India and the Russian Federation. In October, the Islamic Republic of Iran hosted a meeting in Tehran of interior ministers from Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan to discuss economic, social and security issues in the region.
ICRC ACTION

Addressing the humanitarian consequences of the 1980–88 Iran-Iraq war, promoting the ratification and implementation of IHL, providing support to ICRC operations in Afghanistan and Iraq and enhancing cooperation with the Iranian Red Crescent Society remained the main operational priorities for the ICRC in the Islamic Republic of Iran in 2006.

Working in the framework of a joint mechanism agreed upon in February 2004, the ICRC and the Iranian authorities made marked progress towards resolving cases of POWs unaccounted for in connection with the Iran-Iraq war. Since the mechanism was activated, several hundred such cases have been clarified through research activities carried out by the Iranian authorities and information collected by the ICRC from families both in the Islamic Republic of Iran and in Iraq.

In the same context, the ICRC encouraged the creation of a joint mechanism between the Islamic Republic of Iran and Iraq to address the issue of persons missing from the conflict and offered its services as a neutral intermediary to facilitate the establishment of such a body. A preliminary bilateral meeting between the two countries on this issue was planned to take place under ICRC auspices in Geneva, Switzerland, in 2007.

Former members of the Mojahedin-e-Khalq movement were repatriated from Iraq under ICRC auspices, as were a number of other Iranian nationals following their release from places of detention in Afghanistan, Iraq and the US detention facility at the Guantanamo Bay Naval Station in Cuba.

Efforts to promote the implementation of IHL resulted in the signing of a memorandum of understanding with the judicial authorities to translate into Farsi the ICRC’s study on customary international humanitarian law, to hold training workshops for judges, prosecutors, and military tribunal and judiciary administrative staff and to organize a conference in the Islamic Republic of Iran on the International Criminal Court.

The pilot phase of the Exploring Humanitarian Law programme progressed, with some 160 teachers introducing the subject in their classes in four provinces. Dialogue was also pursued with the authorities with the aim of integrating IHL into military instruction and training.

As discussions continued with the Iranian Red Crescent Society to finalize a cooperation agreement on a mine-risk education programme, the ICRC reinforced its partnership with the Iranian Mine Action Centre and the Janbazan Medical Research and Engineering Center. Within this partnership framework, the ICRC planned to support the creation of a mine victim database, help develop a national mine-risk education programme and design a study to assess the situation of survivors of accidents involving mines or other explosive remnants of war in the country.

Storage capacity was expanded at the ICRC office in Kermanshah, in the north-west of the country, for the warehousing of relief supplies dispatched overland to various destinations in Afghanistan and Iraq.

CIVILIANS

Restoring family links

People in the Islamic Republic of Iran and family members detained/interned abroad (Afghanistan, Iraq and Guantanamo Bay in Cuba) were able to restore or maintain links through the ICRC’s tracing and RCM services, with the support of the Iranian Red Crescent.

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

Four meetings were held in 2006 with the Iranian authorities in the framework of the joint mechanism to clarify the fate of for-
mer POWs still unaccounted for from the Iran-Iraq war and to keep their families informed of any progress made.

The number of pending cases of Iraqi POWs previously unaccounted for was reduced through ICRC release checks carried out in Iraq and interviews conducted during the issue of detention certificates to former Iraqi POWs. Information provided by the Islamic Republic of Iran also led to a reduction in the number of cases of Iranians previously unaccounted for from the same conflict.

- 1,713 detention certificates issued to former Iraqi POWs or their families

**AUTHORITIES**

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the ICRC pursued dialogue with a view to concluding a headquarters agreement.

A partnership agreement was concluded with the Iranian Committee on Humanitarian Law (ICHL) for the establishment of an IHL reference centre open to the public in general and the academic community in particular. Under the agreement, the ICRC was to furnish the centre with reference documentation on IHL, while the ICHL was to provide the premises and a specialized librarian and to ensure the indexation of all reference material in an accessible database.

The ICHL set up a multidisciplinary research group to assess the compatibility of Iranian legislation with IHL in general and the Geneva Conventions in particular.

In November, the Qom Institute of Theology, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Iranian Red Crescent and other prominent local partners, in conjunction with the ICRC, organized a regional conference on IHL and the development of a mine victim database.

The faculty of law and political science of Tehran University concluded an agreement with the ICRC to conduct research on the participation of children in armed conflicts.

- 50 Iranian journalists attended information sessions on mine-risk education and IHL and 1 Iranian journalist attended an ICRC regional seminar on IHL in Casablanca, Morocco (see Tunis)
- ICRC documentaries on IHL-related issues and ICRC activities worldwide dubbed into Farsi and broadcast on Iranian TV channels
- photo exhibition featuring Iranian Red Crescent/ICRC activities during the Iran-Iraq war shown in 5 provinces
- 14 Iranian NGOs and charity organizations attended an ICRC seminar on IHL in Tehran
- the pilot phase of the Exploring Humanitarian Law programme launched in 4 provinces and 16 master instructors selected to train 160 teachers in the programme after attending a refresher course

An agreement was concluded with the International Bureau of the Iranian Judiciary aimed at promoting the teaching of IHL among judges and judiciary administrative staff. IHL workshops were planned for 2007, while work started on the translation into Farsi of the ICRC’s study on customary international humanitarian law.

- 3 Iranian judges participated in the 9th South-East Asian Teaching Session on IHL and Refugee Law held in New Delhi, India (see New Delhi)

**ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS**

Dialogue was pursued with members of the Iranian armed and security forces on the integration of IHL into military doctrine, operational procedures and theoretical and practical training programmes.

The Ministry of Defence and members of the armed forces requested and were provided with IHL training manuals which were to be translated into Farsi by the ICHL.

**CIVIL SOCIETY**

The Iranian Red Crescent Society and the ICRC further consolidated their partnership, particularly in relation to Movement coordination, tracing missing persons, restoring family links and mine-risk education.

Further training in tracing strengthened the National Society’s capacity to enable Iranians and Afghan and Iraqi refugees in the Islamic Republic of Iran to restore contact with family members detained/interned abroad, or dispersed following natural disasters.

Cooperation was reinforced with the Iranian Mine Action Centre and the Iranian Red Crescent on mine action programmes and the development of a mine victim database.

- 39 participants from 27 Red Crescent branches and headquarters attended a workshop on tracing organized by the Iranian Red Crescent and the ICRC
- 19 Red Crescent relief and rescue staff from 9 Tehran sub-branches attended a session on tracing and the proper management of human remains organized by the ICRC
- 50,000 leaflets on mine risks produced by the Iranian Red Crescent and the ICRC in Dari and Pashto distributed during mine-risk education sessions organized by the Red Crescent branch in Khorasan for Afghan refugees returning home
- 120,000 copies of three different leaflets containing mine-risk messages in Farsi provided to the Iranian Red Crescent

Iranian Red Crescent mine-action programme managers attended an ICRC session in Amman, Jordan to learn about ICRC-supported programmes in Iraq and Jordan and to discuss current and future activities in the Islamic Republic of Iran.
The ICRC has been present in Iraq since the outbreak of the Iran–Iraq war in 1980. In the current context, priority is given to protection activities, with a particular focus on persons detained/interned by the multinational forces in Iraq and by the Iraqi authorities, and to providing emergency assistance to the civilian population affected by the conflict either directly, or through the Iraqi Red Crescent Society or other partners. Assistance activities include the provision of emergency relief, support to hospitals, emergency repair work on health, water and sanitation infrastructure and restoring family links.

**KEY POINTS**

In 2006, the ICRC:

- stepped up visits to thousands of detainees/internes held by the multinational forces in Iraq and by the Kurdish regional authorities in northern Iraq to monitor their treatment and detention conditions and to make recommendations for corrective action whenever necessary;
- initiated a dialogue with the new Iraqi authorities and the multinational forces in Iraq with a view to ensuring access to all places of detention in the country whenever the security situation permitted;
- restored and maintained contact between detainees/internes in Iraq and family members in Iraq and abroad; pursued efforts to clarify the fate of people unaccounted for in relation to the 1980–88 Iran-Iraq war, the 1990–91 Gulf War, the recent international armed conflict and occupation and the current non-international armed conflict in Iraq;
- provided emergency relief to people displaced by the hostilities and supplied surgical kits directly to hospitals dealing with mass-casualty emergencies;
- carried out emergency repair and rehabilitation work on health, water and sanitation facilities and provided emergency water supplies to offset acute shortages in hospitals and in communities affected by the fighting;
- established or intensified contacts with State actors, arms carriers and key sectors of Iraqi civil society aimed at raising awareness of IHL and ensuring acceptance of and support for the ICRC’s humanitarian mandate and activities in Iraq.

**CONTEXT**

The new Iraqi government formed in April 2006 stepped up efforts to impose its authority and improve security in the country against a backdrop of increasing sectarian violence, continuing armed conflict between multinational/government forces and armed insurgents, a growing civilian death toll and large-scale population displacement.

The sectarian violence increased sharply after a bomb attack in February on a major Shiite shrine in Samarra, resulting in spiralling casualties and undermining government efforts to promote national reconciliation and restore law and order. Lawlessness also appeared to be on the rise, with large numbers of kidnappings for ransom reported.

Armed confrontations increased between the multinational/government forces and armed insurgent groups, mainly in central Iraq, although the relatively stable southern part of the country, especially Basra, witnessed an unprecedented wave of sectarian violence, Shia militia infighting and repeated attacks on multinational forces. Kurdish governorates in northern Iraq remained relatively calm and stable.

Increased security constraints severely restricted the population’s mobility and access to the basic necessities of life, such as markets, medical facilities, schools, jobs, social services and extended family, and access of providers of public services and humanitarian aid to those most in need.

The persistent violence also severely hindered national reconstruction programmes to restore essential public health infrastructure, which remained far from adequate to meet the needs of the Iraqi population.

Unemployment and poverty levels remained high, and much of the population continued to depend on government food distributions that had replaced the UN oil-for-food programme.
A sustained dialogue was kept up with the multinational forces and with the Iraqi authorities, as to places of detention in the north controlled by the Kurdish regional authorities. The growing number of detainees/internees was able to respond to a number of emergencies arising from the displacement of families by the hostilities, mass-casualty emergencies, and with the Iraqi authorities in Iraq resulting in an increased frequency of ICRC visits was stepped up to help it deal with the often causing temporary population displacements. This early security threat was rapidly superseded by the onset of widespread sectarian violence that erupted following the February bombing of a holy shrine in Samarra. Within days, sectarian violence spread across central and southern regions of the country and continued unabated until the end of the year. This prompted thousands of civilians to flee their homes and seek refuge in other regions.

The ICRC pursued its emergency work to repair or prevent the breakdown of health, water and sanitation infrastructure serving millions of people across Iraq. Working through the local authorities and the Iraqi Red Crescent, the organization was able to respond to a number of emergencies arising from the displacement of families by the hostilities, mass-casualty situations and water shortages in poorly served urban communities.

The security situation continued to severely limit access of humanitarian organizations to the victims of the conflict. It also undermined efforts to establish a sustainable network of contacts on the ground with the potential to influence the protection of the civilian population. Despite the difficulties, a considerable effort was made to forge contacts with both State and non-State parties in this regard, with varying degrees of success. The ICRC further strengthened its capacity to respond to the most urgent needs of the population affected by the conflict and called upon all parties involved to spare civilian life and property.

While the ICRC was able to carry out a wide range of activities, albeit at a level far below the needs of those it sought to serve and its own emergency response capacity and overall objectives. It focused primarily on protection activities – mainly visits to people deprived of their freedom – on the provision of emergency relief to the destitute and on ensuring that hospitals had the medical supplies to deal with mass-casualty emergencies.

Despite severe security constraints, the ICRC was able to carry out a wide range of activities, albeit at a level far below the needs of those it sought to serve and its own emergency response capacity and overall objectives. It focused primarily on protection activities – mainly visits to people deprived of their freedom – on the provision of emergency relief to the destitute and on ensuring that hospitals had the medical supplies to deal with mass-casualty emergencies. The ICRC pursued its emergency work to repair or prevent the breakdown of health, water and sanitation infrastructure serving millions of people across Iraq. Working through the local authorities and the Iraqi Red Crescent, the organization was able to respond to a number of emergencies arising from the displacement of families by the hostilities, mass-casualty situations and water shortages in poorly served urban communities.

The growing number of detainees/internees held under the authority of the multinational forces and the regional Kurdish authorities in Iraq resulted in an increased frequency of ICRC visits was stepped up to help it deal with the often causing temporary population displacements. This early security threat was rapidly superseded by the onset of widespread sectarian violence that erupted following the February bombing of a holy shrine in Samarra. Within days, sectarian violence spread across central and southern regions of the country and continued unabated until the end of the year. This prompted thousands of civilians to flee their homes and seek refuge in other regions.
populated mainly by people of the same religious sect. The majority were accommodated by the host community, while others took shelter in abandoned buildings, schools or tented camps. An increasing number of families had fled to neighbouring countries.

**Assisting IDPs and flood victims**
The primary needs of displaced families were water, food, cooking facilities, fuel, basic household essentials and, at a later stage, more permanent shelter. Given the complexities of the re-registration process for government food support, displaced families often required food aid from other sources during their first month of displacement.

In February and October, heavy rainfall flooded large areas of northern and southern Iraq. Hundreds of families living in already precarious conditions were forced to leave the flooded areas.

Assistance was distributed mainly through the Iraqi Red Crescent or directly by the ICRC:

- 227,385 people (38,559 households) in various locations, mostly displaced families, received food aid; they included several hundred people affected by the floods in the Safwan area
- 161,538 people (26,923 households), including 350 Palestinians from Iraq blocked in a camp close to the border with the Syrian Arab Republic, received household essentials, comprising hygiene kits, blankets, jerrycans, kerosene heaters, mattresses and tents
- 83,770 people, mainly IDPs, had their water supply ensured through emergency ICRC water and sanitation projects:
  - 3,000 IDPs in Sadr City received drinking water delivered by tanker
  - 6,500 displaced people who had fled Talafar in July 2005 and found refuge in 3 villages not connected to a water supply system provided with 130,000 litres of water a day until January 2006
  - 50,000 inhabitants and hundreds of IDPs benefited from the repair of the water supply system serving Talafar and surrounding villages
  - 10,700 IDPs in camps in Zubair (Basra governorate), Heet city (Anbar governorate) and Batova (Dohuk governorate) had access to sanitation facilities after their installation or repair
  - 13,000 refugees in Makmoor refugee camp had access to improved sanitation after rehabilitation of the local sewage system
- 570 families benefited from the drainage of the flooded area of Safwan
- In addition 310,000 one-litre water bags were produced and delivered for local distribution during the major holy processesions of Najaf and Karbala in February and March 2006.

**Water infrastructure rehabilitation and development**
More than 4 million people benefited from water and sanitation infrastructure projects, which included the repair, rehabilitation and sometimes the upgrading of water storage systems and distribution networks. Projects were completed at around 30 water supply and sewage stations in Anbar, Arbil, Baghdad, Basra, Diwaniya, Diyala, Najaf, Ninawa, ‘Albu ‘Ali and Wasit governorates. They included the refurbishment of water supply systems in Qandil Mountain villages and rehabilitation of the water supply systems of Jesma village in Ta‘izz governorate and the town of Khamisah on the Turkish border.

More than 1 million people will benefit from ongoing projects.

**Primary health care**
Emergency interventions were initiated at the beginning of the year and continued throughout 2006 in various parts of the country to repair or upgrade health facilities that had or were on the point of breaking down. These operations focused primarily on governorates affected by military operations or sectarian violence and those hosting large numbers of displaced families.

- 67 primary health care centres in Anbar, Babel, Baghdad, Diwaniya, Karbala, Salah Al Deen and Wasit governorates serving an average of more than 9,000 patients per day had their sanitation facilities and vital electro-mechanical components repaired or upgraded
- 2 primary health care centres in Basra (270 patients/day) extended or rebuilt, and reconstruction work started on 2 others in the same city

**Restoring family links and clarifying the fate of the missing**
The ICRC continued to chair meetings of the Tripartite Commission and its Technical Sub-committee set up to clarify cases of persons missing from the 1990–91 Gulf War. The security situation in Iraq had slowed down the process, and no exhumation operations took place in Iraq during the year. Nevertheless, a number of Iraqi and Kuwaiti cases were elucidated.

- 9 cases of Iraqi and 3 of Kuwaiti people unaccounted for resolved in the framework of the Tripartite Commission, bringing to 281 the number of cases clarified since 2003

ICRC action also focused on supporting and encouraging the creation of a mechanism to tackle the issue of people unaccounted for in relation to the 1980–88 Iran-Iraq war, in conjunction with the Iraqi and Iranian authorities concerned. A preliminary bilateral meeting between the two countries on this issue was planned to take place under ICRC auspices in Geneva, Switzerland, in 2007.

The Medico-Legal Institute (MLI) under the authority of the Ministry of Health struggled to cope with the rising influx of dead bodies, notably owing to insufficient capacity to store them properly or to systematically document data on unidentified bodies. From January onwards, rehabilitation work started on MLI mortuaries in Baghdad, Basra and Arbil. The ICRC also rehabilitated a unit for unidentified bodies at the MLI in Baghdad and completed rehabilitation work at the mortuaries of 11 hospitals in Baghdad. To enhance the MLI’s capacity to deal with the daily caseload, and to increase the rate of identification of human remains, the ICRC also provided forensic equipment and data collection/management training to the MLI in Baghdad and its branches in other locations.

- 12,651 RCMs collected from and 12,553 distributed mainly to families of detainees, through the Iraqi Red Crescent
- 9,278 names of people and their present whereabouts or requests for information on the whereabouts of relatives published on the website www.familylinks.icrc.org.
- new tracing requests registered for 28 people (3 females); 94 persons located; 2,002 cases (38 females, 54 minors at the time of disappearance) still being processed, including 1,172 cases (9 females, 9 minors at the time of disappearance) from the 1990–91 Gulf War and 830 cases (29 females, 54 minors at the time of disappearance) related to the present conflict
- 13 people were issued ICRC travel documents
PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

Internment facilities controlled by the multinational forces in Iraq

The ICRC continued to visit thousands of people held in various places of internment controlled by the multinational forces in Iraq in order to monitor their treatment and internment conditions and to make recommendations to the detaining authorities for corrective action where necessary.

The internment facilities visited and under the authority of the US contingent of the multinational forces in Iraq were Camp Cropper and Remembrance II, both located near Baghdad Airport, and Camp Bucca near the southern town of Um Qasr. Regular visits were also made to Shaiba internment facility near Basra controlled by the UK contingent of the multinational forces in Iraq.

- 27,870 detainees/internees visited, 7,377 of them monitored individually (8 females, 59 minors), including 5,562 (6 females, 59 minors) newly registered, during 16 visits to 5 places of detention/internment controlled by the US and UK contingents of the multinational forces in Iraq.

Detention/internment facilities controlled by the Iraqi authorities

The lack of an agreement regulating procedures for ICRC detention visits and security-related travel restrictions prevented ICRC delegates from visiting people deprived of their freedom held by the Iraqi authorities in most parts of the country. Visits were nevertheless carried out to people held under the legal authority of the central Iraqi government but in the physical custody of the US contingent of the multinational forces at Camp Cropper.

- 86 detainees under the legal authority of the central Iraqi government but in the physical custody of the US multinational forces in Iraq visited and monitored individually, including 6 newly registered, during 12 visits to 2 places of detention.

Detainees were also visited in the three northern governorates in detention centres under the authority of the Kurdish regional authorities.

- 5,036 detainees visited, 1,462 of them monitored individually (2 females, 37 minors), including 613 newly registered (1 female, 33 minors), during 81 visits to 21 places of detention controlled by the Kurdish regional authorities in northern Iraq.

- 12 released detainees transferred or repatriated under ICRC auspices after being interviewed to ensure they wished to go home of their own free will.

Restoring family links

People deprived of their freedom and visited by the ICRC were able to restore and maintain contact with their families in Iraq or abroad through RCMs collected and distributed with the assistance of the Iraqi Red Crescent. The ICRC also made thousands of phone calls following visits to internment facilities, in order to inform families of the whereabouts and well-being of their detained/interned relatives.

In response to requests collected by the Iraqi Red Crescent, the ICRC issued certificates of detention to former Iraqi POWs previously held by Kuwait in relation to the 1990–91 Gulf War. The certificates enabled them to qualify for social welfare benefits.

- 21,409 RCMs collected from and 17,034 distributed to detainees/internees held by the multinational forces in Iraq.

WOUNDED AND SICK

Assistance to hospitals

Despite security constraints limiting access to many conflict areas in Iraq, the ICRC was able to deliver emergency medical supplies to many hospitals and other health facilities directly or through the Iraqi health authorities.

- 20 main hospitals in Al Hilla, Baghdad, Diwaniya, Karbala, Najaf and Talafar received medical and surgical kits for the treatment of wounded patients.

- 135,000 litres of fresh water and 120,000 water bags delivered to hospitals in Baghdad inundated with patients following a series of bomb explosions in February.

- Equipment for 12 hospital emergency rooms distributed during the last three months of 2006.

- 10 hospitals in Akra, Arbil, Baghdad (5), Basra, Missan and Sheikhan, with a combined capacity to treat around 5,000 inpatients, had their water and/or sanitation systems restored.

- 18 hospitals had their mortuary fridges repaired/rehabilitated.

- 56 Iraqi surgeons participated in war surgery and trauma treatment seminars in Amman (see Jordan).

- 10 Ministry of Health and 10 Iraqi Red Crescent staff attended a first-aid seminar in Amman.

Assistance to the physically disabled

Eight centres caring for the physically disabled in Arbil, Baghdad (3), Basra, Hilla, Mosul and Najaf and producing artificial limbs and other orthopaedic appliances using polypropylene technology continued to receive ICRC material and financial support. The ICRC retained sole management of the Arbil physical rehabilitation centre. In Baghdad, the ICRC also actively supported the work of the Ministry of Health’s Al-Salam crutches production unit and the Ministry of Higher Education’s training school in prosthetics and orthotics.

In addition, the ICRC promoted quality services and long-term functioning through the organization of four technical seminars in Amman and Arbil for staff from all limb-fitting centres, sponsored one technician from Arbil to attend further education at Amman University and organized of a meeting of centre directors on managerial issues.

- 20,872 patients (3,342 women and 4,577 children) received services at ICRC-supported physical rehabilitation centres.

- 1,352 new patients (200 women and 84 children) fitted with prostheses and 3,821 (580 women and 2,237 children) with orthoses.

- 2,211 prostheses delivered (including 346 for women, 115 for children and 898 for mine victims) and 5,100 orthoses delivered (including 826 for women, 2,836 for children and 113 for mine victims).

- 920 crutches and 14 wheelchairs delivered.

- Iraqi physical rehabilitation staff attended ICRC-organized seminars to upgrade their skills.
AUTHORITIES

In June 2006, representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Human Rights, the High Judicial Council and the Council of Ministers attended an ICRC workshop on IHL in Amman (see Jordan), the first event of its kind organized by the ICRC for the Iraqi political authorities.

The Iraqi parliament, Ministry of Justice and the Supreme Judicial Council received publications on IHL.

Two senior Ministry of Foreign Affairs officials attended a regional course on IHL in Beirut (see Lebanon).

ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

Contacts were reinforced or expanded with high-ranking Iraqi military authorities, the multinational forces and leaders of armed militias and groups in order to address IHL-related issues. Initial meetings were held with private military/security companies with a view to conducting dissemination sessions for their personnel.

US forces in Germany about to be deployed in Iraq attended IHL sessions.

CIVIL SOCIETY

Networking with key sectors of Iraqi civil society was intensified with the aim of raising awareness of IHL and ensuring acceptance of and support for the ICRC’s humanitarian mandate and activities in Iraq.

Prominent members of the Union of Arab Jurists (UAJ), previously based in Baghdad and currently headquartered in Amman, attended an ICRC seminar on IHL in the Jordanian capital after which the ICRC and the UAJ signed a cooperation agreement which, inter alia, provided for the creation of an IHL documentation centre within the UAJ.

- 12 prominent scholars of Islam attended a workshop on IHL and Islamic law
- 18 NGO representatives attended a workshop on IHL and independent humanitarian action, and 2 NGO officials participated in a regional meeting on IHL in Cairo (see Egypt)
- 16 members of women’s associations attended a workshop on the plight of women in war
- 17 university law lecturers attended a seminar on IHL teaching in law curricula
- the Iraqi, pan-Arab and international media briefed on ICRC activities and humanitarian and other IHL-related issues in Iraq; 18 Iraqi journalists attended 2 workshops on IHL in media reporting and another 2 participated in the ICRC yearly regional seminar for Arab media

Iraqi writers and Red Crescent volunteers contributed articles to the ICRC’s Al-Insani (The Humanitarian) magazine, which provides a forum for information and discussion on the Movement’s action and IHL-related issues.

RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT

The Iraqi Red Crescent Society continued to play a pivotal role in the distribution of ICRC food and non-food aid to IDP families across the country and in the collection and distribution of RCMs between people deprived of their freedom in Iraq and their families in the country or abroad.

A new assistance agreement was signed with the Iraqi Red Crescent addressing operational strategies to provide a stronger platform for ICRC support to conflict victims while strengthening the operational capacities of the National Society. This strengthened partnership increased the efficiency of ICRC action to provide food and non-food aid to those most in need through the National Society. It also brought into this collaborative effort the ICRC’s expertise in the fields of economic security, water and habitat and in the medical sector.

Iraqi Red Crescent staff received further training to increase their capacities to assess and respond to emergency needs and to monitor the impact of humanitarian action. The National Society’s logistics capacity was also strengthened through the provision of four trucks, warehouse equipment and logistics and warehouse management training.

National Society staff and volunteers also received further training in the fields of restoring family links, mine action, dissemination and the Safer Access approach.

Various National Society branch offices were upgraded through ICRC material support.

A Movement coordination meeting for Iraq was held in Istanbul in July, hosted by the Turkish Red Crescent and organized by the Iraqi Red Crescent, the International Federation and the ICRC (see Ankara).
The ICRC has been present in Israel and the occupied territories and the autonomous territories since the 1967 Arab–Israeli war. It strives to ensure respect for IHL, in particular its provisions relative to the protection of civilians living under occupation. It monitors the treatment and living conditions of detainees held by the Israeli and Palestinian authorities and provides assistance to the Palestinian population. As the lead agency for the Movement in this context, the ICRC coordinates the work of its Movement partners and supports the activities of the Palestine Red Crescent Society and the Magen David Adom.

**KEY POINTS**

In 2006, the ICRC:
- actively sought compliance by Israel with its obligations under IHL towards the Palestinian population living under its occupation and intensified oral representations to Palestinian groups and to Palestinian security forces regarding respect for civilians and the medical mission;
- followed up 20,061 Palestinian detainees held in Israel and 1,837 detained by the Palestinian authorities to assess their treatment and living conditions and enabled around 17,000 family members to visit relatives detained in Israel each month;
- stepped up support to Palestinian medical facilities affected by the financial crisis and mobility restrictions and provided monthly food parcels to 11,545 Palestinians in Hebron’s Old City and regular or ad hoc food aid to 18,138 others in the West Bank and Gaza Strip;
- implemented cash-for-work and livelihood-support projects in impoverished Palestinian communities, rehabilitated or established Palestinian water and sanitation infrastructure and ensured minimum water supply in the Gaza Strip during Israeli military operations there;
- supported implementation of an agreement between the Magen David Adom and the Palestine Red Crescent Society aimed at enhancing operational cooperation;
- liaised with the Israel Defense Force to obtain safe access to the wounded and stranded civilians in Southern Lebanon and made representations to the Israeli authorities regarding the conduct of hostilities there.

**CONTEXT**

The year 2006 was a turbulent one in Israel and the occupied Palestinian territories, heralded by fundamental changes in the political landscape on both sides.

Israel responded to the Hamas election by severing all relations with the Palestinian Authority and halting the transfer of monthly revenues and taxes collected on the Palestinians’ behalf. Similarly, major Western donors froze aid to the Palestinian Authority on the grounds that it refused to recognize Israel’s right to exist, renounce violence and honour previous agreements. As a result, the Palestinian Authority – the largest single employer in the occupied territories and the main provider of public services – was on the verge of bankruptcy and unable to provide essential services to the Palestinian population, notably in the health, water and sanitation sectors.

Over the following months, the non-payment of public sector salaries, a prolonged strike by health workers and the temporary closure of schools caused the Palestinian population even greater hardship. Tighter mobility restrictions imposed by Israel, continued construction of the West Bank barrier, land confiscation, house demolitions and the effects of military operations further exacerbated the situation.

The capture of Israeli soldiers, one by Palestinian militants operating from the Gaza Strip on 24 June and two by the Lebanon-based Hezbollah group on 12 July, plunged the region into the worst crisis in years, triggering large-scale Israeli military offensives in the Gaza Strip and in Lebanon. A UN-brokered ceasefire ended hostilities between Israel and Hezbollah forces on 14 August. Israeli military operations in the Gaza Strip, including its first ground incursions there since disengagement in August 2005, continued for much of the second half of 2006, as did frequent rocket attacks fired into Israel by Palestinian militants.

Five months of on-off negotiations between Hamas and Fatah on the formation of a unity government collapsed in early December leading to serious factional fighting between Palestinian groups.

**EXPENDITURE (IN KCHF)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Protection</td>
<td>16,280</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assistance</td>
<td>23,358</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prevention</td>
<td>2,739</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cooperation with National Societies</td>
<td>7,156</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>49,533</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Implementation rate</strong></td>
<td>94%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**PERSONNEL**

- 68 expatriates
- 202 national staff (daily workers not included)

The ICRC has been present in Israel and the occupied territories and the autonomous territories since the 1967 Arab–Israeli war. It strives to ensure respect for IHL, in particular its provisions relative to the protection of civilians living under occupation. It monitors the treatment and living conditions of detainees held by the Israeli and Palestinian authorities and provides assistance to the Palestinian population. As the lead agency for the Movement in this context, the ICRC coordinates the work of its Movement partners and supports the activities of the Palestine Red Crescent Society and the Magen David Adom.
The ICRC continued actively to seek compliance by Israel with its obligations under IHL towards the Palestinian population living under its occupation and publicly expressed its concern at the marked worsening of the humanitarian situation in the Palestinian territories and the concurrent increase in violence affecting civilians both in Israel and in the territories. It renewed calls on Israel to ensure that the basic needs of the civilian population in the occupied territories were met, reminding it that, while humanitarian agencies could alleviate some of the effects resulting from the suspension of funds to the Palestinian Authority, they could not and should not replace the latter in providing services to the population.

Protection and assistance activities were stepped up in response to the deteriorating humanitarian situation in the Gaza Strip and West Bank, and a budget extension appeal was launched on 12 June to cover new or expanded programmes.

The Palestinian health sector received substantially increased ICRC aid to help it to continue operating despite reduced funding from the cash-strapped Palestinian Authority, a prolonged strike by health workers and more stringent mobility restrictions imposed by Israel. Ambulance movements were facilitated to evacuate the wounded during hostilities or to transfer patients between the West Bank and Jordan.

Planned ad hoc emergency food aid was provided to thousands of utterly destitute Palestinians, and several livelihood-support and cash-for-work projects were implemented in impoverished Palestinian communities for whom restrictions on movement had severely impeded access to their land. ICRC household kits were issued to Palestinians whose homes had been levelled or confiscated to clear land for the construction of the West Bank barrier or for settlement expansion or because they had been built without construction permits.

The ICRC worked with the Palestinian water authority to rehabilitate or establish water and sanitation infrastructure in poorly served communities and responded to water shortages during Israeli military operations in the Gaza Strip.

The treatment and living conditions of 20,061 people detained by Israel and 1,837 detainees held by the Palestinian Authority were closely monitored, and more than 17,000 Palestinians were able each month to visit relatives detained by the Israeli authorities. Particularly vulnerable detainees were given ad hoc assistance.

During the war in Lebanon, the ICRC liaised extensively with the Israel Defense Force (IDF) to ensure access to the victims of the hostilities in the south of the country, and representations were made to the Israeli authorities regarding the conduct of the hostilities.

The Palestine Red Crescent Society and the Magen David Adom received substantial support to strengthen their capacities to deliver humanitarian services. The ICRC also proactively promoted implementation of the cooperation agreement concluded between the two National Societies in November 2005.

Persistent efforts were made to gain access to the three Israeli soldiers captured in June and July 2006, and contact was maintained with their families. Work also continued with the aim of clarifying the fate of people unaccounted for or missing in action from previous conflicts in the region.

The ICRC remained committed to pursuing the construction of an emergency medical clinic in the occupied Golan. Efforts were made to ensure full support for the project by all parties concerned and to provide them with any necessary clarifications.
barrier was a particular concern, especially during the olive harvest season so crucial to their livelihoods.

- 66 written and 1,085 oral representations made to the Israeli authorities

Dialogue was intensified with the Palestinian authorities and Palestinian militant groups with whom the ICRC raised its concerns regarding the protection of the civilian population, both Israelis and Palestinians, and the impact on civilians of increased intra-Palestinian violence and non-respect for the medical mission.

- 39 oral representations made to Palestinian militant groups or to the Palestinian security services regarding 149 alleged violations of customary IHL and basic human rights standards

**Access to safe water**

In close cooperation with the Palestinian water authority, the ICRC initiated or completed several projects to construct or rehabilitate water and sanitation infrastructure in poorly served West Bank communities. A total of 1,135,700 people benefited from completed water projects:

- 67,700 people benefited from completed water supply projects, including: the rehabilitation of pumping stations (e.g. in Falafim for 700 people), the construction of a booster station and distribution network (e.g. in Kufa Tulleth for 5,000 people) and equipment for a pumping station (e.g. in Tammoun for 20,000 people)
- 3 water trucks provided to communities (68,000 people) not connected to water networks
- Emergency aid of 120,000 litres of fuel provided to the water board in Gaza to run 150 pumping stations serving 1 million people, and 14 generators plus generator fuel, spare parts and tools provided to increase its capacity to respond to needs arising from Israeli military operations in Gaza from late June onwards

An additional 41,750 people were benefiting from ongoing projects, e.g. in Kufa Al-Labad, Qualquia and Taqoua.

**Economic security**

ICRC assessments showed a significant increase in poverty, exacerbated by the almost total non-payment of public sector salaries by the Palestinian Authority from March onwards.

The Karni crossing point, the main passage for goods into and out of the Gaza Strip, was partially or totally closed for 47% of the year, resulting in shortages of basic goods and sharp increases in prices of staple products.

- 10,536 Palestinians benefited from agricultural inputs and livelihood-support initiatives in impoverished West Bank and Gaza City communities; this included 39,490 man-days paid to 4,626 daily workers engaged in cash-for-work projects and 5,910 people benefiting from livelihood-support initiatives
- 29,683 Palestinians (4,810 households) received regular or ad hoc food aid, including 11,545 individuals (1,921 households) affected by closures in Hebron Old City who received monthly food parcels
- 24,506 Palestinians (3,984 households) received household relief kits, including 5,519 Palestinians (855 households) whose homes had been destroyed by Israeli forces and 10,862 Palestinians (1,808 households) affected by closures in Hebron Old City who received hygiene kits

**Restoring family links**

Travel to the Syrian Arab Republic for Syrian nationals living in the occupied Golan remained subject to Israeli restrictions, and tightened mobility restrictions made travel extremely difficult for Palestinians wishing to visit or be reunited with family members living in other parts of the occupied territories.

In one exceptional case, after 10 years of effort, the ICRC reunited three orphaned minors from Jordan with their grandmother in Nablus. The ICRC also succeeded in reuniting a 14-year-old girl from an orphanage in the West Bank with her mother in Jordan after eight years of separation.

- 899 Druze students and clerics from the occupied Golan travelled under ICRC auspices between the occupied Golan and Damascus for study or religious purposes
- 4,153 RCMs collected from and 3,995 distributed to civilians, including families in the occupied Golan and Lebanese nationals in Israel

**Clarifying the fate of the missing**

Families of Palestinian militants believed to have died in Israel or during military operations continued to approach the ICRC for help in determining the fate of their loved ones. Unfortunately, only very few requests for information on missing individuals received a response from the Israeli authorities over the year, despite official ICRC representations made at the highest levels to address this issue.

- The remains of 3 Palestinian militants wounded in IDF operations and who later died in hospital repatriated to the West Bank, facilitated by the ICRC

**People deprived of their freedom**

**Israel**

The ICRC continued to carry out visits to people held in interrogation centres, provisional detention centres, prisons and police stations to assess detainee treatment, living conditions and medical care and to enable them to restore or maintain contact with their families.

Lebanese nationals known to be detained by the Israeli authorities in connection with the war in Lebanon were visited by the ICRC until access was suspended at the end of September. The ICRC continued to press for renewed access and engaged in a constructive dialogue with the Israeli authorities on this issue.

Recommendations for corrective action, based on the observations of ICRC delegates during visits, were conveyed to the Israeli detaining authorities whenever necessary.

- 20,061 Palestinian detainees visited, 8,826 of them monitored individually (152 females, 782 minors), including 5,891 newly registered (63 females, 694 minors), during 411 visits to 41 Israeli detention centres; 4 Lebanese detainees captured during the conflict in Lebanon visited before access was suspended
8,627 RCMs collected from and 8,204 distributed to Palestinian detainees and 3,303 phone calls made to families to inform them of the whereabouts of a detained relative
around 17,000 family members visited an average of 6,900 relatives detained in Israel each month by means of some 4,800 bus trips organized by the ICRC to and from 23 Israeli prisons; in total 8,313 detainees received family visits
around 64,000 official documents forwarded to Palestinian detainees or their families, including some 3,000 power of attorney documents
5 detainees launched to alleviate the consequences of the lack of funds in detention places
163 detention certificates issued to former detainees or their families
165 detention certificates issued to former detainees or their families

Palestinian Authority
The ICRC kept up visits to detainees held by the Palestinian Authority. Representations regarding respect for judicial guarantees were regularly made to different levels of the judiciary.

An information day for donors at a Palestinian prison was organized by the ICRC in Ramallah. Members of the Judicial Reform Support Group (an international forum on the reform of the judicial sector) had an opportunity to see how a Palestinian prison functioned and the difficulties it faced.

Military medical personnel working in detention centres attended a seminar on medical ethics, and more than 80 senior prison staff from the Gaza Strip and West Bank attended workshops on the UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners.

Following IDF incursions targeting prisons in Jericho and Nablus, the ICRC distributed emergency assistance to some 150 detainees and entirely rebuilt the family visiting room in Nablus prison destroyed during military operations.

1,837 Palestinian detainees visited, 483 of them monitored individually (12 females, 40 minors), including 220 newly registered (6 females, 28 minors), during 190 visits to 55 Palestinian detention centres

148 RCMs collected from and 41 distributed to detainees and 147 phone calls made to families to inform them of the whereabouts of a detained relative
a monthly hygiene-kit distribution programme covering all places of detention holding more than 5 detainees launched to alleviate the consequences of the lack of funds in detention places
163 detention certificates issued to former detainees or their families

WOUNDED AND SICK
Access to adequate health services was increasingly difficult for the Palestinian population because of the mobility restrictions imposed by Israel and the financial crisis afflicting the Palestinian Ministry of Health, which caused shortages of medical supplies and staff and undermined basic health programmes. On the basis of field surveys and monitoring, the ICRC conveyed its concerns to the Israeli authorities, urging them to take measures to ensure that the civilian population had access to proper health care.

Highlights of ICRC support in 2006:

30 Palestine Red Crescent primary health care centres supported; central medical stores serving 8 public surgical hospitals supplied with life-saving medicines and disposables;
medical supplies for weapon-wounded pre-positioned in Gaza and transported between Gaza and Ramallah;
public health sector staff attended emergency-room trauma courses in Gaza and Ramallah and Palestine Red Crescent staff attended a workshop on emergency medical services; public hospitals provided with medical and nursing textbooks and journals;
operating costs and salaries of the Palestine Red Crescent emergency medical service and secondary health care service covered by the ICRC;
2 ambulances donated to the Palestine Red Crescent by the ICRC.

The ICRC prepared the ground for the establishment of an emergency medical clinic and diagnostic centre in the part of the Golan occupied by Israel. Full support for the project was sought from all parties concerned.

A draft Palestinian law on the emblem of civil society both in Israel and in the Palestinian territories.

Authorities
The ICRC renewed calls on Israel to ensure that the basic needs of the civilian population in the occupied territories were met, in accordance with its obligations under IHL as the occupying power.

Humanitarian concerns in the Israeli-Palestinian context were shared with diplomatic missions, donors and international organizations, including UN agencies and the EU Coordination Group.

Various Israeli armed and security services, but mainly the IDF, attended more than 20 sessions on the ICRC and IHL.

Members of the Palestinian security services attended over 30 ICRC seminars on the ICRC and IHL.

Civil Society
Media relations
The media was kept regularly abreast of the ICRC’s main humanitarian concerns and activities in the Israeli-Palestinian context and during the conflict in Lebanon through press briefings, interviews, news releases, monthly activity updates, information posted on the ICRC website and articles published in Al Insani (The Humanitarian), the Arabic-language magazine produced by the ICRC in Cairo, Egypt.

Promoting IHL in civil society
Contacts were maintained with key sectors of civil society both in Israel and in the Palestinian territories.

Palestinian religious leaders and members of Islamic NGOs in Gaza attended seminars on IHL and the ICRC.
influential personalities from Palestinian civil society attended over 80 dissemination sessions to reinforce acceptance of and respect for ICRC field activities
key NGOs in Gaza and the West Bank attended 15 seminars on ICRC priorities and IHL issues in the Israeli-Palestinian context
contacts were maintained with Israeli NGOs

**IHL in schools and universities**

In January, the Palestinian Ministry of Education and the ICRC renewed an agreement for the implementation of the Exploring Humanitarian Law programme in 270 schools in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

- Exploring Humanitarian Law sessions held in summer youth camps in the West Bank, and selected students attended forums on the programme in Jericho and the Gaza Strip
- the Exploring Humanitarian Law programme pilot-tested in an Israeli high school
- students from various Palestinian universities attended ICRC sessions on IHL; the Islamic University in Gaza agreed to integrate IHL into its law curriculum
- prominent international and Israeli scholars attended a conference on the parallel application of IHL and human rights law co-organized by the ICRC and the Hebrew University

**RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT**

The focus of the ICRC’s cooperation activities during 2006 was on advancing the implementation of an operational agreement concluded between the Magen David Adom and the Palestine Red Crescent Society in November 2005 under the auspices of the Swiss government.

On 22 June 2006, both of these National Societies were formally recognized by the ICRC and admitted to the Movement. This followed the 29th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, at which the Statutes of the Movement were amended to incorporate the additional emblem of the red crystal.

The Palestine Red Crescent continued to help the ICRC implement its programme of family visits to Palestinian detainees and to distribute ICRC food aid and other essentials to destitute Palestinian families.

Support to the Palestine Red Crescent Society included:

- ambulance fleet maintenance and contributions towards operating costs (e.g. communication system, emergency medical stations, staff salaries and training), and support to promote effective management practices;
- financial and technical support to develop training in trauma management and treatment for staff of the emergency medical service (EMS);
- sponsoring the participation of the EMS director in an international conference on EMS and to observe EMS operations in Ontario, Canada; help in the design and implementation of a five-day management training programme for EMS station directors;
- funding of the IHL dissemination programme, website and publications;
- assistance in the creation of a sustainable programme aimed at raising children’s awareness of the danger of mines and other explosive remnants of war, in coordination with other agencies working in this field;
- a train-the-trainer course on tracing for disaster management unit volunteers.

Support to the Magen David Adom included:

- financial and technical support for blood transfusion and tracing services;
- assistance in developing a strategy to promote humanitarian values and Movement activities and the transfer of technical expertise to partner National Societies;
- financial support to cover increased operational costs incurred in running a clinic for civilians displaced from northern Israel during the conflict between Israel and Hezbollah, and for the purchase of first-aid material and health care equipment;
- technical and financial support provided jointly with the International Federation to conduct a first national disaster-response team training session for 19 staff and volunteers;
- technical and financial support to conduct the first ever train-the-trainer course on dissemination for EMS staff.
The ICRC has been present in Jordan since the 1967 Arab-Israeli war. Its work there largely consists in visiting detainees to monitor their treatment and conditions of detention, providing tracing and RCM services to enable civilians and foreign detainees to restore family links, and promoting IHL throughout Jordanian society, in close cooperation with the Jordan National Red Crescent Society. The delegation also provides logistical support to ICRC relief operations in Israel, the Occupied and Autonomous Territories and Iraq.

**KEY POINTS**

- In 2006, the ICRC:
  - visited people held by the Jordanian authorities to monitor their conditions of detention; offered to mediate between the authorities and detainees and to provide medical aid to those wounded during prison riots in March and April;
  - restored and maintained links between families in Jordan and their relatives detained/interned in Jordan or abroad;
  - provided refugees accepted for resettlement by third countries with travel documents, in collaboration with UNHCR and the embassies of destination countries;
  - welcomed an official order issued by the authorities to integrate IHL into all aspects of military training; made progress in the integration of IHL into law curricula in Jordanian universities and its basic principles into school teaching programmes;
  - cooperated with the Jordanian Red Crescent in the fields of mine-risk education, IHL promotion and tracing;
  - through its regional logistics centre in Amman, stepped up support to ICRC operations in Iraq, the Palestinian territories and Lebanon.

**CONTEXT**

After a year in office, the government underwent a reshuffle in November. Although the economy strengthened in macro-economic terms, the purchasing power of many households diminished owing to price increases, including on basic items. Security forces were kept on high alert and announced that they had foiled a number of attacks planned against various targets throughout the country.

The heightened security came in the wake of simultaneous suicide bombings at three international hotels in Amman in November 2005. In September 2006, an individual fired at tourists, killing one, and at a police officer in downtown Amman. The following month, a car-bomb exploded at the Al-Karama Iraqi-Jordanian border crossing point, killing three border officials and wounding three others.

The State Security Court pronounced several new death sentences relating to planned or actual attacks against national or foreign interests in the country, and a new anti-terrorism law entered into force in November. In the second quarter of the year, Jordanian officials announced the arrest of several people, allegedly linked to Hamas, on charges of smuggling weapons and planning attacks in Jordan.

In March and April, rioting broke out in several prisons holding security detainees. The riots ended after the detainees involved, some of whom had been sentenced to death, released Ministry of Interior officials they had been holding hostage.

**EXPENDITURE (IN KCHF)**

- Protection 1,559
- Assistance -
- Prevention 994
- Cooperation with National Societies 117
- General -

**IMPLEMENTATION RATE**

Expenditure/yearly budget 112%

**PERSONNEL**

- 17 expatriates
- 96 national staff (daily workers not included)

The increasinglly tense situation in the Palestinian territories, resulting in recurrent border closures and tightened immigration procedures, disrupted the transfer of patients to and from the West Bank and Jordan. Iraqis’ access to and stay in Jordan came under closer scrutiny from the authorities.
ICRC ACTION

Visits to people deprived of their freedom and the restoration of contact between people in Jordan and members of their families either detained/interned abroad or in Jordan, or between family members otherwise separated by conflict, remained priority activities. The ICRC also continued to facilitate the transfer of medical cases and human remains between the West Bank and Jordan.

Efforts to promote the incorporation of IHL into national legislation and in support of national efforts to integrate IHL into the doctrine, teaching and training programmes of the armed forces and into university and school curricula were favourably received by the authorities concerned. The Jordanian authorities issued an official order to integrate IHL into military training. The ICRC’s Exploring Humanitarian Law programme was successfully piloted in a number of Jordanian schools, and a second and final pilot phase was launched at the beginning of the new academic year, with the extension of the programme to additional schools.

A first ICRC workshop was organized in Jordan for members of the upper and lower houses of parliament. This helped to give senators and deputies a better understanding of IHL ahead of legislators’ planned submission to parliament of a number of temporary or draft laws related to IHL in 2007.

The ICRC also cooperated with and provided support to the Jordan National Red Crescent Society in the fields of tracing, the promotion of IHL and the Fundamental Principles, and mine-risk education.

The Jordan delegation continued to play a key role in supporting ICRC operations in neighbouring Iraq and the Palestinian territories. It also served as a pivotal logistics base for ICRC operations in Lebanon during the July–August conflict. Emergency medical supplies, food and other essential aid were dispatched from ICRC warehouses in Amman by air or road to all three destinations. The precarious security situation in Al-Anbar province in Iraq led to a temporary suspension of road convoys to Baghdad from Jordan, and alternative supply routes were set in place.

CIVILIANS

ICRC tracing and family-links services
People in Jordan and their family members detained/interned in Jordan or abroad were able to restore or maintain contact and to exchange official documents such as passports and power of attorney papers through the ICRC’s tracing and family links services. Former detainees obtained ICRC certificates of detention.

Hundreds of refugees (300 Iranian Kurds and 130 Palestinians), who had been stranded in Ruweished camp close to the Iraqi border since they fled Iraq in March 2003, and a group of 195 Iranian Kurds, who had been blocked in a strip of no-man’s-land between the two countries since 2005, restored contact with their families by the same means. By the end of 2006, 354 refugees from the Ruweished camp (300 Iranians and 54 Palestinians) had been resettled in Canada, Ireland, Sweden and the United States.

At the request of UNHCR and/or the embassies concerned, recognized refugees received ICRC travel documents to facilitate their resettlement in third countries.

Three children from an orphanage in Jordan were reunited under ICRC auspices with their grandmother in the Palestinian territories, and a female child was located by the ICRC in an orphanage in the Palestinian territories and reunited with her mother in Jordan.

Twenty-four Jordanian nationals detained in Israel received family visits arranged by the ICRC in coordination with the Jordanian and Israeli authorities.

» 1,365 RCMs collected and 1,673 distributed
» new tracing requests registered for 17 people (1 female), mainly from families enquiring about Jordanian nationals detained/interned or living in Iraq; 27 persons located, 45 people (1 minor at the time of disappearance) still being sought
» 476 civilians, as well as 109 human remains, transferred to/from the Palestinian territories; 3 children reunited with their grandmother in the Palestinian territories
» 455 recognized refugees issued with ICRC travel documents
» 17 official documents of various types forwarded across borders and frontlines

Logistics support and training
The ICRC logistics base in Amman continued to provide key support to ICRC activities, particularly in Lebanon, Iraq and the Palestinian territories.

During the emergencies arising from the South Asia earthquake in October 2005 and the armed conflict in Lebanon in July–August 2006, logistics experts were immediately dispatched from Amman to set up and support assistance activities in those areas. In addition to serving its intended purpose to support assistance...
programmes in the Palestinian territories and Iraq, the Amman warehouse proved to be a valuable asset during the conflict in Lebanon and functioned as a logistics platform for ICRC aid shipments to the country. National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies were also able to use this channel to forward assistance safely to Lebanon.

The regional vehicle workshop prepared and maintained a large number of vehicles used in emergencies and for general operations in the Middle East. The emergency truck fleet was extensively used during the Lebanon crisis. In addition, the trucks were deployed in a cross-border operation between the Syrian Arab Republic and Israel and to provide weekly supplies to the Palestinian territories.

351 staff members trained by the regional training unit in Amman

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

The ICRC carried out regular visits to people held in detention facilities run either by the General Intelligence Directorate (GID) or by the Public Security Directorate (Correctional and Rehabilitation Centres) to monitor detainee treatment and living conditions. It maintained a confidential dialogue with the Jordanian authorities and submitted a summary report of observations and recommendations made during the visits.

Detainees were able to maintain contact with their families through the RCM service.

Extra visits were made to three Correctional and Rehabilitation Centres in Amman following outbreaks of rioting by detainees there in March and April. ICRC findings and recommendations resulting from these visits were shared with the authorities concerned, in particular aimed at preventing a recurrence of such incidents.

The King of Jordan announced that the Correctional and Rehabilitation Centre in the Jaffer area of Maan Governorate was to be closed because conditions of detention there were not appropriate. Various national and international bodies had publicly expressed concern about the conditions in the centre. The ICRC had also visited the centre. At the beginning of December, the centre was shut down, and the inmates transferred to other Correctional and Rehabilitation Centres.

7,492 detainees visited, 681 (1 female, 1 minor) monitored individually, including 543 newly registered, during 48 visits to 11 places of detention

340 RCMs collected and 74 distributed from/to families and their detained relatives

28 certificates of detention issued to former detainees or their families

WOUNDED AND SICK

The transfer by ambulance of patients and the bodies of deceased Palestinians between Jordan and the West Bank continued to be facilitated by the ICRC, in cooperation with the Jordanian and Palestine Red Crescent Societies.

476 patients and 109 bodies of deceased Palestinians transferred between Jordan and the West Bank

AUTHORITIES

A draft law on the Ottawa Convention was finalized by the national IHL committee for presentation to the government, while a draft law on the Rome Statute was under review at the Foreign Ministry. Another draft law amending the Jordan Red Crescent Law, incorporating provisions for the protection of the emblem, still awaited parliamentary approval.

In a further positive development, an official decision was taken to include IHL as a separate subject in diploma courses for trainee judges at the Judicial Institute.

15 judges and 8 representatives from the Military Judiciary Directorate, the Public Security Directorate, the GID and the Jordanian Bar Association participated in an ICRC course on IHL, organized in cooperation with the Judicial Institute of Jordan; members of the upper and lower houses of parliament for the first time attended an ICRC seminar, organized jointly with the national IHL committee, on the distinction between IHL and human rights law, national implementation mechanisms and the role of parliamentarians in implementing IHL.

29 representatives of various government ministries and bodies attended an ICRC seminar on IHL and a round-table organized with the national IHL committee to review progress and to draft a plan of action for 2007

16 civil judges, 2 military judges, 2 public security officers, 2 public intelligence officers, 2 civil defence officers and 1 attorney attended the 3rd annual seminar on IHL organized by the Judicial Institute of Jordan in collaboration with the ICRC

ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

In a key development, the chairman of the Jordan Armed Forces (JAF) Joint Chiefs of Staff issued an official order in January to integrate IHL into military training with immediate effect.

215 senior JAF instructors and 75 military officers from 16 countries attended an ICRC refresher course on IHL at the Royal Command and Staff College

hundreds of Jordanian and non-Jordanian officers attended 26 ICRC presentations on IHL at various military institutes and colleges

62 JAF officers attended 3 training sessions conducted by JAF instructors, with ICRC support, at various military colleges and institutes

30 Jordanian officers attended a training course on IHL at the Peace Operations and Training Center

CIVIL SOCIETY

IHL teaching in universities

12 of Jordan’s 15 universities had integrated IHL into their law curricula by the end of 2006

19 law lecturers and researchers from 9 public and private universities attended a seminar on challenges facing IHL and customary IHL, organized by the ICRC and the national IHL committee

37 law lecturers and postgraduate students, together with key civil society representatives, attended an IHL seminar co-organized by Mutah University and the ICRC in Karak (southern Jordan)

Exploring Humanitarian Law

The introduction of the Exploring Humanitarian Law programme in 11 schools was a success, and the Ministry of Education approved its extension to a further 24 schools for the 2006–07 academic year.
17 educational supervisors and 30 teachers involved in the Exploring Humanitarian Law programme attended 2 training sessions on the programme.

20 members of the Education Ministry’s curriculum and textbook department attended an Exploring Humanitarian Law workshop.

5 members of the Ministry of Education’s technical committee participated in the 4th regional conference on the Exploring Humanitarian Law programme in Tunisia (see Tunis).

**Media relations**

1,250 copies of 2 issues of the ICRC-produced Arabic-language quarterly magazine *Al-Insani* distributed to various government departments and key civil society sectors, including the media.

**RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT**

The ICRC continued to provide training, material and financial support to help strengthen the capacities of the Jordan National Red Crescent Society in the fields of dissemination, tracing and mine-risk education.

- Jordanian and Palestine Red Crescent ambulance services assisted in transferring medical cases and human remains between Jordan and the West Bank (see Civilians).
- 21 Jordanian Red Crescent volunteers attended a training workshop on the dissemination of IHL and the Fundamental Principles.
- Jordanian Red Crescent volunteers received training and training tools on mine-risk education, enabling them to run mine-risk sessions for Jordanian schoolteachers and schoolchildren.
The ICRC has been present in Lebanon since 1967. It gives priority to providing protection and assistance to civilians affected by armed conflict, in close cooperation with the Lebanese Red Cross Society. It seeks compliance with IHL by State and non-State actors in the country. The ICRC is pursuing dialogue with the Lebanese authorities and other parties concerned with a view to gaining access to detainees in their custody. Restoring and maintaining links for people separated from members of their families is also an ICRC priority.

In 2006, the ICRC:
- called on all parties to the hostilities in Lebanon in July–August to respect their obligations under IHL and maintained an ongoing dialogue with the belligerents regarding the protection of civilians and medical and relief workers;
- mounted a large-scale operation in response to emergency humanitarian needs arising from the hostilities, in close cooperation with the Lebanese Red Cross;
- provided leadership and coordination for the Movement’s action in Lebanon to provide people affected by the hostilities with food, water, basic shelter and household essentials and to supply health facilities with the means to treat the wounded and chronically sick;
- established a security notification system with the belligerent parties to secure safe access for relief and medical personnel to people affected by the hostilities and facilitated the passage of humanitarian convoys sent in by numerous National Societies;
- held the first IHL session for Hezbollah military field commanders and party members and initiated a dissemination programme for troops of the UN Interim Force in Lebanon and Lebanese armed and security forces deployed in south Lebanon;
- pursued dialogue with the Lebanese authorities regarding ICRC access to places of detention in Lebanon and with Hezbollah regarding access to two Israeli soldiers captured by its militants in July 2006.

CONTEXT

In July–August 2006, the population of Lebanon was caught up in the most intensive hostilities since the 1975–1991 civil war that tore the country apart and left it in ruins. The hostilities were triggered by the capture of two Israeli soldiers by Hezbollah, which led to a large-scale Israeli air, sea and ground offensive in Lebanon. More than 1,000 people in Lebanon, mostly civilians, were killed, thousands were wounded and hundreds of thousands were displaced during the hostilities. Widespread damage was inflicted on civilian infrastructure, including roads, bridges, power plants and water supply facilities, especially in the south, the southern suburbs of Beirut and the Bekaa valley. Food supply and distribution networks were also severely disrupted and the economy was brought to a near standstill.

Under the terms of a UN-brokered ceasefire that went into effect on 14 August, ending 34 days of intense fighting, Lebanese armed forces were deployed in south Lebanon for the first time in decades and the UN peace-keeping force presence there was reinforced.

Many parts of south Lebanon were heavily contaminated by explosive remnants of war, including cluster bombs, posing a significant threat to the local population, many of whom had been displaced during the height of the conflict and were returning to their homes. This threat also restricted farming in a region dependent on agriculture as the main source of income.

A political crisis erupted on 11 November when ministers from Hezbollah and the Amal movement resigned shortly before the cabinet was due to approve the UN tribunal plan. Days later, thousands of opposition supporters staged a sit-in in downtown Beirut – still under way as the year ended – demanding the resignation of the government. Tensions mounted further after Pierre Gemayel, the Lebanese minister of industry and a Maronite Christian leader, was assassinated in Beirut on 21 November.

The political standoff prevented any further progress on a "National Dialogue" initiated in March by Lebanon's main rival political factions.
In May, the Palestinian Liberation Organization reopened an office in Beirut for the first time since Palestinian militants were forced to leave Lebanon during the 1982 Israeli invasion.

**ICRC ACTION**

ICRC activities and priorities shifted radically from addressing humanitarian issues stemming from past conflicts involving Lebanon to emergency needs arising from the hostilities in July–August 2006.

At the start of the hostilities, the ICRC reminded the parties of their obligations under IHL and maintained a dialogue with all parties throughout the conflict, in particular to raise issues regarding the protection of civilians, relief workers, and medical teams evacuating the wounded and sick.

Working closely with the Lebanese Red Cross, its main partner in the country, the ICRC was one of the few relief organizations active in the south of the country during the intensive phase of hostilities and provided leadership and coordination for Movement operations throughout the crisis.

From the outset, a security notification system was established with the belligerent parties to secure safe access for relief and medical personnel to those affected by the hostilities and to facilitate the passage of humanitarian convoys sent in by numerous National Societies.

At the height of the crisis, the ICRC rapidly expanded its presence from 2 to 86 expatriate delegates backed up by 158 national staff working out of four operational bases in Beirut, Tyre, Marjayoun and Sidon. Damage inflicted by air strikes on Beirut airport and the country’s road and bridge networks compelled the ICRC to charter ships to channel relief supplies through seaports in the south of the country. Emergency supplies were also brought in overland via the Syrian Arab Republic.

Its rapid deployment enabled the ICRC to supply health facilities treating the wounded and provide food, water and household essentials to hundreds of thousands of people directly affected by the fighting.

While security constraints prevented the ICRC from operating to full capacity in the south prior to the ceasefire, the organization was nevertheless able to access a number of villages and medical facilities there at the height of the hostilities to carry out emergency relief operations and to evacuate people seeking to move to safer areas further north. Particularly vulnerable residents also received ICRC support, especially families trapped in their villages by the fighting in south Lebanon and households sheltering displaced people. A substantial assistance programme was also launched for IDPs in Beirut and other major cities.

Following the ceasefire, the ICRC stepped up its activities significantly, carrying out large-scale distributions of food and household essentials in areas of south Lebanon inaccessible during the phase of open hostilities. Access to clean water was restored for hundreds of thousands of people, and the delivery of medico-surgical supplies, fuel and generators kept numerous health facilities treating the wounded, sick and chronically ill patients functioning.

Throughout the hostilities and their immediate aftermath, the ICRC coordinated its activities with those of the Lebanese authorities and other humanitarian agencies working in Lebanon in order to avoid duplication or gaps in the provision of aid.

After the ceasefire, ICRC delegates pursued dialogue with both Israel and Hezbollah on the conduct of hostilities.

Discussions continued with the Lebanese authorities regarding ICRC access to places of detention in the country and with Hezbollah regarding access to the two Israeli soldiers they captured.

**CIVILIANS**

**Protection of the civilian population**

At the onset of hostilities, the parties involved were called upon to respect their obligations under IHL. On several occasions, the ICRC publicly stated its concern regarding the high number of civilian casualties, the extent of damage inflicted on vital civilian infrastructure, the occurrence of direct hits on Lebanese Red Cross ambulances and the safety of humanitarian convoys and staff.

The ICRC also voiced its concern about the use of cluster munitions in populated areas – weapons that often failed to explode, posing a serious ongoing threat to the population, particularly in the south.

As the fighting raged in July and August, the ICRC carried out 30 field trips to isolated villages south of the Litani river to assess and, wherever possible, respond to the most urgent needs of the population. Around 400 people were evacuated to safer areas further north during these field trips.
Restoring family links
Although the vast majority of Lebanese were able to keep in touch with their families, for those who could not, a website was set up where people searching for relatives could register. Furthermore, families in Lebanon were able to restore or maintain contact with relatives detained or resident abroad, mainly in Israel, through the ICRC tracing and RCM services.

- 850 phone calls informed families abroad about the whereabouts of relatives in Lebanon; 51 RCMs collected from and 94 distributed to families in Lebanon; 147 names published on the website
- new tracing requests for 27 people (2 females) registered, 17 persons located, and 9 people (2 females) still being sought
- the remains of 2 Lebanese civilians who were living in and died in Israel transferred to Lebanon, facilitated by the ICRC
- 323 detention certificates issued to former detainees or their families

Resolving cases of people unaccounted for
The Lebanese government and armed forces proposed the creation of a National Information Bureau to address the issue of people unaccounted for in relation to past conflicts.

Forensic authorities received ICRC guidelines for the exhumation and identification of human remains found in gravesites in Lebanon. Two Lebanese forensic doctors attended an ICRC seminar for forensic practitioners held in Amman, Jordan.

Economic security
During the conflict and its immediate aftermath (July–October), tens of thousands of families, mainly in south Lebanon and in the southern suburbs of Beirut, received food and household essentials. Based on the results of an assessment of the socio-economic impact of the hostilities conducted in September, the ICRC shifted its approach in November and December from general relief distributions to identifying households with the most critical needs.

- 536,445 people (107,289 households) received food and 393,405 people (78,681 households) household essentials to cover immediate needs from July to October
- 83,785 people (16,817 households) received food and 64,415 people (12,883 households) received household essentials in November and December; beneficiaries included mainly displaced families in the south but also some 1,600 displaced families in the southern suburbs of Beirut, Mount Lebanon and Zahlé, whose houses had been damaged or destroyed, and some 2,300 farming families who had lost part of their harvest in north Lebanon and Hermel as a result of the hostilities

The assistance included baby food and drinks, food parcels, ready-to-eat meals, rice and wheat flour, sugar, blankets, hygiene kits, foldable jerrycans, kitchen sets, sleeping mats, tarpaulins, tents and fuel.

- the Ministry of Health received 109,988 jars of baby food and 600,018 ready-to-eat meals in October and December and the Ministry of Environment received 69,298 jars of baby food in October

Access to health care
(see also Wounded and sick)
A number of health facilities in the south were affected by the hostilities and were evacuated by their medical staff, who joined the flow of IDPs moving north. This resulted in reduced access to health care for residents remaining behind, especially elderly people suffering from chronic diseases, who refused to abandon their villages in areas where heavy fighting was going on.

To improve access to health care for both IDPs in collective centres and residents in poorly served areas, the ICRC supplied medical material and drugs to treat chronic diseases to numerous medical facilities run by various health providers, including mobile clinics operated by the Lebanese Red Cross for people in isolated areas.

Water and sanitation
During the hostilities, numerous water plants were provided with generator fuel to keep them operational during power cuts and 26,500 IDPs in Beirut and Marjayoun were supplied with tanker-delivered water for one month.

The ICRC worked together with the local water boards. Thus, water authorities in the south received 10 chlorination systems, as well as piping and other equipment to replenish stocks depleted during the hostilities. In the Bekaa valley, the water board received material to refurbish pumps and replace electrical components at a power plant serving 100,000 people, as well as 11 chlorination systems and 3 submersible pumps. Small-scale projects were carried out at the request of the north Lebanon water authorities, including the installation of a submersible pump for irrigation purposes and another to boost water supply to poorly served and vulnerable communities.

In total 1,138,500 people benefited from ICRC action during the hostilities and after the ceasefire, in particular:

- 450,000 people, mainly from the south and the Bekaa Valley, reconnected to water supply through the installation of generators at the water pumping stations and water supply restored for 350,000 people through the repair of generators or pumping stations;
- 200,000 people in the south and the Bekaa valley reconnected to water supply through the rehabilitation of water treatment plants and large water pumping stations, work to rehabilitate the main pipeline, and electrical mechanical interventions (e.g. replacement of pumps, control panels, piping) on small water-pumping stations (up to 1,000 M3/day);
- 100,000 people in the Sidon and Nabatiyeh regions benefited from improved water quality through the installation of chlorination systems in 5 major water supply and pumping stations;
- 10,000 people living in the south close to the border, (re)supplied with water through mobile generators reactivating 6 water pumping stations until electricity supply was restored or fixed;
- 2,000 people, isolated households, received 379 plastic water tanks (1,000 litres) to boost their water storage capacity.

By the end of 2006, work was ongoing in Kfar Melki (Nabatieh area) and in Chamsine (Bekaa). The outcome, a better water supply, will benefit 130,000 people.

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM
The ICRC took steps to gain access to the two Israeli soldiers captured by Hezbollah on 12 July and to enable them to restore contact with their families. Access had not been granted by the end of the year and therefore RCMs sent by their families could not be delivered.

ICRC ANNUAL REPORT 2006
Dialogue was also pursued with the Lebanese authorities regarding access to places of detention in the country, in accordance with the ICRC’s mandate and in implementation of a decree issued by the Lebanese government in late 2002.

WOUNDED AND SICK

See Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement for more information concerning the evacuation of wounded and sick by Lebanese Red Cross ambulances.

Despite the security constraints, the ICRC was able to supply numerous emergency medical facilities and hospitals with surgical material and drugs to treat the wounded during the hostilities. After the ceasefire, the ICRC continued this activity to replenish medical stocks depleted during the conflict.

Five hospitals and other health facilities, mainly in the south but also in the Bekaa valley and Beirut, were also provided with generators, plastic water tanks (10,000 liters) and fuel – more than 300,000 litres – to keep them operational after the power supply was interrupted.

ICRC action during the hostilities and after the ceasefire:

- 26 public and private hospitals provided with medico-surgical supplies;
- 39 health facilities, the emergency medical services as well as the blood bank and medico-social services run by the Lebanese Red Cross given significant ICRC support;
- 80 clinics and first-aid ambulance services run by various non-governmental organizations provided with medical supplies.

Physical rehabilitation of the disabled

Disabled Palestinians not assisted by the Lebanese social welfare services were fitted free of charge with artificial limbs at a physical rehabilitation centre run by the Sidon Orphan Welfare Society located close to the main Palestinian refugee camp of Ein-el-Helweh and supported by the ICRC. The centre continued to receive ICRC materials, components for prosthetic/orthotic appliances and financial support.

- 46 patients (15 women and 7 children) received physical rehabilitation services at the Sidon centre

- 2 new patients (1 child) fitted with prostheses and 5 (2 women and 3 children) with orthoses
- 3 prostheses (1 for a child) and 13 orthoses (5 for women and 4 for children) delivered

AUTHORITIES

The ICRC established a security notification system with the belligerent parties to secure safe access for relief and medical personnel to those affected by the hostilities. Access nevertheless proved difficult owing to ongoing military operations and the poor state of roads damaged by bombing.

During a visit to Lebanon in August, the ICRC president met the Lebanese authorities and the Hezbollah leadership and called on the parties engaged in the hostilities to respect their obligations under IHL. In a later press conference, the president deplored the fact that civilians had borne the brunt of the hostilities.

Close contacts with the Lebanese High Relief Commission and with other State authorities enabled them to be kept updated on ICRC activities to protect and assist people affected by the hostilities and to ensure coordination with them whenever necessary.

Members of the parliamentary human rights committee involved in a study on the conduct of the hostilities attended an ICRC dissemination session, and the committee’s library was provided with documentation on IHL.

The ICRC encouraged the Lebanese authorities to establish a national IHL committee to coordinate all governmental actors involved in the implementation of IHL.

Longstanding contacts were maintained with leaders of the main Islamic groups in Lebanon.

Representatives from 19 countries attended the third regional seminar for Arab governmental experts on IHL held in Beirut in June.

ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

Some 120 members of the joint Lebanese army and police force stationed in south Lebanon participated in two ICRC sessions on IHL in the first half of the year. A dissemination programme was also initiated for troops of the UN Interim Force in Lebanon deployed in the south of the country.

Later in the year, meetings with the Lebanese armed forces chief of staff took place to define an operational dissemination approach for Lebanese troops newly deployed in the south.

CIVIL SOCIETY

Various civil society audiences participated in sessions on IHL and the ICRC:

- national and international media representatives kept regularly informed about ICRC activities; a number of journalists accompanied ICRC teams on field trips
- 25 heads of NGOs and associations involved mainly in human rights activities attended an ICRC presentation on the relevance of IHL regarding the use of weapons in armed conflicts
- 20 members of the Lebanese Institute for Human Rights attended a session on IHL
- 3 Lebanese students participated for the first time in an IHL moot court competition; 20 students from 5 universities familiarized with IHL to help them qualify for the competition in 2007
- 25 schoolteachers attended a refresher course on the Exploring Humanitarian Law programme; National Society volunteers trained in the use of the modules in summer camps and other extracurricular activities

RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT

At the outset of hostilities, the ICRC worked to ensure that the Lebanese Red Cross could continue to function as an effective National Society, including its provision of over 80% of Lebanon’s ambulance services. The Lebanese Red Cross received direct support through the donation of ambulances, first-aid kits, supplies and equipment, including generators, new uniforms, boots and protective vests, to boost the capacity of its emergency medical services.
In providing operational leadership and coordination for the Movement’s action in response to the hostilities, the ICRC gave logistical support to National Societies active in Lebanon, either directly or through the Lebanese Red Cross, its main partner in the country.

Regular meetings were held with other components of the Movement operating in Lebanon during the open phase of hostilities and in its immediate aftermath to optimize information sharing and to seek ways of working together in a coordinated manner.

Following the ceasefire, medicines were provided to restock State dispensaries throughout the country, and specialist equipment was supplied to nine Lebanese Red Cross blood bank units.

Together with the International Federation, the ICRC helped the Lebanese Red Cross to strengthen its logistics unit to cope with emergency needs during the hostilities and equipped it with a forklift, generators, pallet trucks and other warehouse equipment. It also funded central warehouse space secured in Beirut for one year, as well as the salaries of key National Society logistics staff.

In addition, continuing support was provided to refurbish 12 Lebanese Red Cross medical and emergency medical service centres and to renovate its Beirut headquarters.

New and established volunteers of the National Society’s emergency medical services received training, and the dissemination unit was reinforced through the provision of additional materials and training tools.

During the hostilities, five hospitals and nine clinics run by the Palestine Red Crescent in Palestinian refugee camps in Lebanon were provided with medical supplies to cover their needs for two months.
The ICRC has been present in the Syrian Arab Republic since 1967. It acts as a neutral intermediary regarding issues of humanitarian concern for the Syrian inhabitants of the part of the Golan occupied by Israel. It facilitates travel of certain categories of people, such as students and pilgrims, between the occupied Golan and the Syrian Arab Republic proper, and maintains links between family members separated as a result of the conflict with Israel. The ICRC has an interest in ascertaining that people detained in the Syrian Arab Republic are treated in accordance with international standards. Its work to spread knowledge of IHL in government, military, academic and media circles, and its close cooperation with the Syrian Arab Red Crescent, are other priorities.

**KEY POINTS**

In 2006, the ICRC:
- facilitated contacts between inhabitants of the occupied Golan and their families in the Syrian Arab Republic; arranged for students and pilgrims from the Golan to travel to the Syrian Arab Republic for educational or religious purposes and facilitated weddings between engaged couples separated by the demarcation line;
- acting as a neutral intermediary, transported to the Syrian Arab Republic 4,344 tonnes of apples produced by farmers in the occupied Golan;
- processed tracing requests from people in the Syrian Arab Republic seeking to locate and re-establish contact with family members detained/interned abroad, mainly in Iraq;
- maintained support for a physical rehabilitation centre run by the Syrian branch of the Palestine Red Crescent Society;
- provided material assistance to several hundred Palestinian refugees from Iraq blocked in a strip of no-man’s-land between Iraq and the Syrian Arab Republic and close to an Iraqi border post;
- pursued dialogue with the Syrian authorities on standard procedures for ICRC visits to people deprived of their freedom.

**CONTEXT**

Despite the armed conflict in neighbouring Iraq, the Syrian Arab Republic remained calm, though the authorities continued to arrest a number of alleged Islamist militants, political opponents and human rights activists.

At the outbreak of hostilities between Israel and Hezbollah forces in Lebanon, more than 200,000 Lebanese and other nationals in Lebanon poured into the Syrian Arab Republic. Most of them returned to Lebanon shortly after the ceasefire there went into effect.

During the hostilities in Lebanon, Syrian Arab Republic served as the land entry point for relief supplies dispatched to Lebanon by the ICRC and numerous Red Crescent Societies in the region. Up to 800,000 Iraqi refugees were living in the Syrian Arab Republic at year-end, with around 2,000 reportedly arriving in the country daily in the final months of 2006.

In May, the Syrian authorities granted asylum to some 300 Palestinian refugees from Iraq, many of whom had been stranded for several months at the Iraqi-Jordanian border before being allowed entry to the Syrian Arab Republic.
RESTORING FAMILY LINKS
Red Cross messages (RCMs) and reunifications

| RCMs collected | 315 |
| RCMs distributed | 285 |

Tracing requests, including cases of missing persons

| People for whom a tracing request was newly registered | 5 |
| Tracing requests closed positively (persons located) | 5 |
| Tracing requests still being handled at 31 December 2006 | 53 |

WOUNDED AND SICK
Physical rehabilitation

| Patients receiving services | Patients | 682 |
| Prostheses delivered | Pieces | 349 |
| Orthoses delivered | Pieces | 218 |

**ICRC ACTION**

More than 100 ICRC delegates and 25 ICRC relief convoys transited the Syrian Arab Republic en route to Lebanon to provide protection and assistance to people directly affected by the hostilities there. The ICRC also facilitated the organization and protection of relief convoys sent by Red Crescent Societies to Lebanon via the Syrian Arab Republic.

The Syrian Arab Red Crescent provided swift and effective support to tens of thousands of Lebanese, Syrians and other nationals resident in Lebanon who had sought refuge in the Syrian Arab Republic during the hostilities in Lebanon. The ICRC supported the National Society’s efforts in this respect, in particular by increasing its capacity in the area of logistics.

The ICRC facilitated travel to the Syrian Arab Republic by students and pilgrims in the occupied Golan and arranged for the weddings of engaged couples on opposite sides of the demarcation line to take place in the demilitarized zone. The ICRC also assisted in the exchange of official documents between family members living in the occupied Golan and in the Syrian Arab Republic.

Demand remained high for ICRC tracing and RCM services, which helped Syrian nationals and Iraqi refugees in the Syrian Arab Republic to locate and re-establish contact with family members detained/ interned or unaccounted for abroad, mainly in Iraq. The services also enabled Palestinian refugees in the Syrian Arab Republic to restore and maintain contact with relatives imprisoned in Israel.

The ICRC, in close cooperation with the Syrian authorities, UNHCR and the embassies of destination countries issued travel documents to Iraqi and other refugees following their acceptance for resettlement in third countries.

Acting as a neutral intermediary at the request of the Israeli and Syrian authorities and of Golan and Syrian farmers, the ICRC transported to the Syrian Arab Republic 4,344 tonnes of apples produced by farmers in the occupied Golan. The operation was an economic boost for the Golan population, which depended largely on the sale of apples for its livelihood.

The ICRC submitted a memorandum to the Syrian authorities detailing its mandate and standard working procedures in the field of detention. The aim was to seek Syrian acceptance of the ICRC’s offer of services to visit people deprived of their freedom in the country, particularly security detainees.

ICRC support was maintained for a physical rehabilitation centre run by the Syrian branch of the Palestine Red Crescent Society treating Palestinian and Syrian amputees.

In accordance with a core element of its mandate, the ICRC continued to promote the integration of IHL into national legislation.

The ICRC further developed its partnership with the Syrian Arab Red Crescent, focusing mainly on increasing its capacity in the fields of restoring family links, first aid, disaster response and promotion of IHL.

The ICRC, in conjunction with the Syrian authorities and the National Society, also explored the possibility of the Syrian Arab Republic providing assistance in support of ICRC operations in Iraq.

In coordination with the UN Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) and the Israeli and Syrian authorities, the ICRC arranged for students and pilgrims from the occupied Golan to travel to the Syrian Arab Republic for limited periods to pursue their studies or to visit holy sites. Similar coordination enabled the wedding ceremonies of couples separated by the demarcation line to take place in the demilitarized zone.

**CIVILIANS**

ICRC action focused on providing assistance and protection to Syrian nationals living in the occupied Golan and on serving the tracing needs of Syrian families and Iraqi refugees arising from the conflict in neighbouring Iraq.

**Restoring family links and tracing**

The ICRC endeavoured to safeguard minimum contact between family members cut off from one another for decades by the separation zone between the Syrian Arab Republic and the occupied Golan. The organization pursued efforts to bring about a resumption of regular meetings between the Syrians living in the occupied Golan and family members who fled to the Syrian Arab Republic when the region was occupied by Israeli forces in 1967.

In coordination with the UN Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) and the Israeli and Syrian authorities, the ICRC arranged for students and pilgrims from the occupied Golan to travel to the Syrian Arab Republic for limited periods to pursue their studies or to visit holy sites. Similar coordination enabled the wedding ceremonies of couples separated by the demarcation line to take place in the demilitarized zone.

Syrian nationals in the occupied Golan and in the Syrian Arab Republic continued to rely on the ICRC to exchange official papers such as power of attorney documents and birth, death and marriage certificates. Such documents often enabled recipients to qualify for pensions or to settle personal issues such as inheritance or property rights.
A number of families in the Syrian Arab Republic were able to locate and re-establish contact with relatives either unaccounted for or detained/interned in Iraq or elsewhere abroad through the ICRC’s tracing and RCM services. ICRC efforts to provide people in the Syrian Arab Republic with information on family members presumed to have died in Iraq were limited owing to the high number of casualties there, the overstretched capacity of morgues and insecurity on the ground. This made it extremely difficult, if not impossible, to locate, to gain access to and to identify the victims.

The issue of Lebanese nationals unaccounted for from past conflicts in the region and presumed by their families to be detained or unaccounted for in the Syrian Arab Republic was addressed by a joint commission set up by the two countries. Nevertheless, the commission reported no tangible results during the year.

Refugees accepted for resettlement, primarily Iraqi and stateless persons, were issued with ICRC travel documents to facilitate their travel to third countries, in coordination with ICRC travel documents to facilitate their travel to third countries, in coordination with the Syrian authorities, embassies of destination countries and organizations such as UNHCR.

- travel for 906 students and pilgrims facilitated between the occupied Golan and the Syrian Arab Republic, as well as the transfer of the human remains of one person
- 3 wedding ceremonies arranged in the Kuneitra separation zone under ICRC auspices
- 101 official documents relayed between families in the Syrian Arab Republic and the occupied Golan and 10 various attestations issued
- 315 RCMs collected and 285 distributed to civilians, mainly families of people detained/interned in Iraq and elsewhere abroad (e.g. Guantanamo Bay Naval Station in Cuba)
- new tracing requests registered for 5 people, 5 persons located, and 53 people still being sought
- 167 people issued with ICRC travel documents

**Economic assistance for the Occupied Golan population**

Acting as a neutral intermediary at the request of the Israeli and Syrian authorities and of Golan and Syrian farmers, the ICRC transported to the Syrian Arab Republic 4,344 tonnes of apples produced by farmers in the occupied Golan. The operation was coordinated with UNDOF, which monitors the demarcation line between the Syrian Arab Republic and the occupied Golan, and provided an economic boost for the Golan population, about 80% of whom depend at least partially on the sale of apples for their livelihoods.

**Assistance for victims of the conflict in Iraq**

In May, the Syrian authorities agreed to allow the ICRC, in cooperation with the National Society, to dispatch assistance from Syrian territory in support of the organization’s operations in Iraq. Discussions were held with the local authorities in Deir Ezzor governorate, notably in the border town of Al Bukamal, to finalize the arrangements.

Several hundred Palestinian refugees from Iraq stranded close to a border post and in a strip of no-man’s-land between the Iraqi and Syrian borders received material assistance in the form of tents, blankets, stoves and sanitation facilities.

**People deprived of their freedom**

The Syrian authorities and the ICRC pursued dialogue regarding the ICRC’s offer of services, made in accordance with its mandate, to visit people deprived of freedom in the Syrian Arab Republic.

Following consultations with the Syrian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the ICRC submitted a memorandum to the ministry at the end of April detailing its objectives and standard working procedures in relation to visits to security detainees. No reply had been received from the ministry by year end.

**Wounded and sick**

A physical rehabilitation centre run by the Syrian branch of the Palestine Red Crescent Society in Yarmouk continued to receive ICRC material and technical assistance. An increasing number of Iraqi patients benefited from services at the centre.

- 682 patients (140 women and 136 children) received services at the ICRC-supported physical rehabilitation centre
- 197 new patients (34 women and 11 children) fitted with prostheses and 136 (30 women and 53 children) with orthoses
- 349 prostheses (63 for women and 32 for children; 70 for mine victims), 218 orthoses (46 for women and 99 for children; 5 for mine victims) and 67 crutches delivered

**Authorities**

Following parliament’s adoption of a law on the protection of the emblem in November 2005, dialogue continued with the authorities regarding its implementation.

**Armed forces and other bearers of weapons**

In line with instructions issued by the Ministry of Defence, senior military officers expressed interest in increasing knowledge of IHL within the armed forces, with ICRC support.

Work progressed to update a manual on IHL for the armed forces as part of ongoing activities aimed at integrating IHL into theoretical and practical military training.
CIVIL SOCIETY

The ICRC participated in a number of seminars and gave presentations on IHL and the ICRC’s mandate and activities to students and representatives of other sectors of civil society.

RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT

Following the quick and effective support provided by the Syrian Arab Red Crescent to tens of thousands of Lebanese, Syrians and other nationals resident in Lebanon who sought refuge in the Syrian Arab Republic during the hostilities in Lebanon, the ICRC supported the National Society in developing its capacities. This involved primarily strengthening the Syrian Arab Red Crescent’s logistics capacity through training and the provision of support materials.

In cooperation with the Syrian authorities and the National Society, the ICRC facilitated the organization and protection of relief convoys sent by Red Crescent Societies in the region and by the ICRC from Amman, Jordan to Lebanon via the Syrian Arab Republic. As with all movements by the ICRC in Lebanon during the hostilities, notification of the majority of Red Crescent relief convoys was made to the belligerent parties prior to entering Lebanon.

A two-day seminar on restoring family links was organized for volunteers of the National Society’s Hama branch in April. The ICRC also participated in a disaster-management training session in May, organized by the National Society and the International Federation, during which some 70 representatives of 14 regional Red Crescent Societies attended an ICRC session on the Safer Access approach and basic guidelines for ensuring the availability of drinking water in emergency situations. As part of efforts to reinforce the National Society’s communication department, the ICRC identified a focal person for this activity and partially covered the salary.

First-aiders received material support, and water and sanitation equipment was donated to the National Society’s disaster-management programme. Equipment was also provided to the new Red Crescent branch in Hassakeh governorate.

In October, the ICRC and the Syrian Arab Red Crescent started visits to detention centres for minors in Damascus, during which a pressing need for literacy instruction was identified.
The ICRC has been working in Yemen since the outbreak of the civil war in 1962. It works with the Yemeni Red Crescent Society to assist the civilian population affected by the hostilities in north Yemen. It seeks to resume visits to detainees in accordance with its standard procedures. It promotes the incorporation of IHL into national legislation and its introduction into school and university curricula and into the training programmes of the armed and police forces. Assistance is provided to rehabilitation centres for the disabled. ICRC tracing activities enable refugees to restore family links and Yemeni nationals to locate and contact relatives detained/interned abroad.

**KEY POINTS**

- In 2006, the ICRC:
  - carried out a joint mission with the Yemeni Red Crescent to assess humanitarian needs in areas of Sa’ada governorate (north Yemen) affected by armed conflict, and distributed emergency aid to hundreds of needy families and to medical facilities in the fighting zone;
  - restored contact between Yemeni families and relatives detained/interned abroad and between foreign nationals in Yemen and family members in their home countries;
  - visited Yemeni nationals held in the US detention facility at the Guantanamo Bay Naval Station in Cuba, and relayed RCMs between them and their families in Yemen;
  - extended vocational training and literacy courses for women detainees from 5 to 7 central prisons, in cooperation with the Yemeni Red Crescent;
  - supported physical rehabilitation centres caring for disabled people;
  - promoted the sustainability of IHL training courses for the armed forces, the inclusion of IHL in academic curricula and Yemen’s accession to IHL instruments to which it was not yet party.

**CONTEXT**

Clashes between government forces and followers of the late Sheikh Hussein Badreddine Al Houthi flared up again in late 2005 and early 2006 in the northern region of Sa’ada, where armed confrontations between the same parties had already occurred in mid-2004. The situation reportedly calmed down, however, after mediation by community leaders with both parties and the appointment of a new governor in Sa’ada.

A number of alleged al-Qaeda suspects were arrested and put on trial. Many were reportedly later released under a presidential amnesty.

Yemen pursued efforts to reinforce national security and stepped up security cooperation with neighbouring countries in the fight against “terrorism”. It also sought to become a member of the Gulf Cooperation Council.
Following further armed confrontations in Sa’ada, the ICRC’s priority during the year was to gain access to the areas affected by the fighting in order to assess and respond to emergency humanitarian needs, in cooperation with the Yemeni Red Crescent Society. In April, a joint assessment mission was carried out in the region, and basic relief supplies were distributed to families affected by the fighting. Further assistance was provided in July, including medical supplies to health facilities in the region.

Parties engaged in the armed conflict were reminded of their responsibilities under IHL not to harm the civilian population or damage civilian infrastructure.

Discussions were pursued with the Yemeni authorities aimed at gaining access to all places of detention and people deprived of their freedom in Yemen, including those detained in connection with the fight against “terrorism” and the armed confrontations in Sa’ada governorate.

Women prisoners benefited from an expanded programme run by the Yemeni Red Crescent and supported by the ICRC providing literacy courses and vocational training, as well as improved medical care.

Demand remained steady for the ICRC tracing and RCM services enabling refugees in Yemen to stay in touch with their families, and Yemeni families to re-establish and maintain links with relatives detained/interned abroad.

Physical rehabilitation centres caring for the disabled continued to receive ICRC technical, training and material support.

Other ICRC priorities included promoting knowledge of IHL and its integration into national legislation, school and university curricula and the training programmes of the armed, police and security forces.

**CIVILIANS**

**Assisting the civilian population**

The ICRC publicly called on the parties engaged in the hostilities in Sa’ada region to respect the provisions of IHL that specifically oblige them to safeguard water, food and other basic necessities essential for the survival of the civilian population.

For security reasons, the ICRC had no access to Sa’ada during the armed confrontations that took place there early in 2006. Following the appointment of a new governor in Sa’ada in February, however, the local authorities and the ICRC resumed dialogue regarding the ICRC’s mandate to provide protection and assistance to the victims of the armed confrontations.

In early April, the ICRC and the Yemeni Red Crescent were able to carry out a joint assessment mission in the areas affected by the fighting. During the mission, 25 villages were visited in three districts in Sa’ada governorate, where the needs of the civilian population suffering the consequences of the fighting were identified at household level. Hundreds of particularly needy families affected by the violence were then provided with emergency aid. A second aid distribution was made in July, when basic first-aid supplies were also distributed to five public health centres in areas affected by the armed confrontations.

In early October, the ICRC visited Marran, a mountainous region in the south-west of Sa’ada governorate that was the scene of fighting in 2004. The visit showed that the population had recovered well after benefiting from ICRC assistance in 2005 to reconstruct and rehabilitate damaged water collecting ponds and to improve the quality of the local water supply. During the October mission, 10 additional water collecting projects were identified. In addition, public water supply facilities in a region close to Sa’ada city damaged during the armed confrontations and lacking adequate maintenance were assessed, and rehabilitation work started in December 2006.

- 3,000 people (500 households) affected by the fighting in Sa’ada provided with 2,000 blankets and mattresses, 500 tarpaulins, kitchen sets, cooking stoves, gas cylinders and soap
- 3 public health centres in areas affected by the fighting received basic first-aid supplies

**Restoring family links**

Thousands of refugees and asylum seekers, mainly from countries in the Horn of Africa, continued to rely on the ICRC’s tracing and RCM network to locate and re-establish contact with family members in their home countries.

By the same means, hundreds of families in Yemen were able to restore and maintain contact with close relatives detained/interned abroad (in Afghanistan, Iraq and the US detention facility at Guantanamo Bay Naval Station in Cuba). Iraqi nationals resident in Yemen were also able to restore or maintain contact through the RCM network with relatives held in Iraq.

Former detainees without identification papers were issued with certificates of detention to facilitate their requests for refugee status in Yemen or resettlement in third countries. The certificates were...
provided by ICRC delegations in countries where the individuals in question were previously imprisoned. In several cases, the ICRC cross-checked detention records at the request of UNHCR in Yemen.

In March, an ICRC delegate based in Yemen visited Yemeni nationals held in Guantanamo Bay to increase their awareness of the availability of the RCM service to keep in contact with their families in Yemen. Subsequently, visits were made to the families in Yemen during which RCMs were delivered to and collected from them for relay to their relatives in Guantanamo Bay.

- 4,504 RCMs collected from and 3,446 distributed to refugees and asylum seekers in Yemen and from/to Yemeni families and their relatives detained/interned abroad
- new tracing requests registered for 25 people (4 females, 1 minor); 4 persons located; 23 people (6 females, 4 minors) still being sought

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

Visits to detainees

Dialogue was pursued with the authorities with a view to gaining regular access, in conformity with standard ICRC procedures, to all places of detention in Yemen, including those run by the Political Security Department holding people in connection with the armed confrontations in Sa’ada governorate and with activities perceived as endangering State security.

The ICRC made an ad hoc visit to two people held at the Political Security prison in Sana’a in March 2006 after their transfer in May 2005 from places of detention under US authority. The individuals were released from Yemeni detention at the end of March 2006. Two other Yemeni nationals who had been transferred from Guantanamo Bay were released in March and May 2006.

Ad hoc visits were also made to three foreign nationals detained at the Political Security prison in Sana’a.

- 6 detainees visited and monitored individually, including 5 newly registered, during 3 visits to 1 place of detention
- 1 RCM distributed to one detainee

Assistance to women prisoners

Early in 2006, ICRC financial and material support for an assistance programme for women held in five central prisons (Hodeida, Amran, Mahwit, Dhammar and Aden) was extended to the two central prisons in Hajja and Ibb governorates. Implemented in cooperation with the Yemeni Red Crescent, the programme aimed through sewing, weaving and literacy courses to break the isolation of imprisoned women and improve their prospects for reintegration into society after release. The ICRC also continued to monitor their health care and distributed basic hygiene products to women detained in Ibb.

Red Crescent volunteers involved in the programme attended a workshop held under ICRC auspices, which provided an opportunity for them to exchange information on ways to enhance the effectiveness of their activities.
WOUNDED AND SICK

Assistance to the disabled
Professional training was given by an ICRC prosthetist/orthotist at physical rehabilitation centres run by the Ministry of Health and Population in Sana’a and Mukalla and producing prostheses and various other orthopaedic appliances using ICRC polypropylene technology introduced to Yemen in 2002.

As part of its support for staff training at these centres, the ICRC sponsored the participation of two Yemeni prosthetic/orthotic technicians in a three-year course at the Mobility India Institute in Bangalore, which ended in December 2006. It also organized English language courses for six other Yemeni technicians to enable them to participate in a similar course in the same place starting in July 2006.

- 6,018 patients (1,407 women and 2,259 children) received services at ICRC-supported physical rehabilitation centres
- 574 new patients (120 women and 177 children) fitted with prostheses and 2,542 (513 women and 1,232 children) with orthoses
- 634 prostheses (135 for women and 184 for children; 113 for mine victims) and 2,917 orthoses (623 for women and 1,418 for children) delivered

 AUTHORITIES

The national IHL committee and the ICRC worked to accelerate the integration of IHL into Yemeni legislation. Meetings were also held with members of the Constitutional Committee of the Yemeni parliament to discuss Yemen’s ratification of the Rome Statute.

- 25 Yemeni diplomats attended an IHL session co-organized with the Yemeni Diplomatic Institute

 ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

For the first time, the Ministry of Defence issued an order to integrate IHL into the teaching and training programmes of military institutes and colleges. Military units were formally instructed by the authorities concerned to include four hours of IHL instruction in their training curricula each month.

The Moral Guidance Department of the Ministry of Defence and the ICRC renewed an agreement on the publication of ICRC articles on IHL-related issues in the monthly magazine Al-Jaish distributed free of charge to Yemeni armed forces personnel and Yemeni embassies worldwide.

- 35 prison directors and armed and security force training instructors attended a workshop, organized in conjunction with the Ministry of Interior, on the integration into their training curricula of international humanitarian law
- 30 Ministry of Defence instructors participated in a second three-day refresher course on IHL to enhance their capacities to sustain IHL teaching in military training programmes
- Ministry of Defence and military academy libraries received publications on the ICRC and IHL, including a summary of the ICRC’s study on customary international humanitarian law
- 30 teachers newly involved in the Exploring Humanitarian Law programme participated in the 3rd training course on the programme
- 30 judges and public prosecutors attended a workshop on IHL implementation organized with the Supreme Judicial Institute of Yemen
- 57 journalists took part in workshops on the relevance of IHL in today’s conflicts and reporting on humanitarian issues
- 30 Ministry of Human Rights employees and influential civil society figures attended an IHL session
- contacts were initiated with several key NGOs, including the Union of Women and a leading Islamic charity

RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT

Emergency relief activities in areas of north Yemen affected by the hostilities between government forces and armed groups were carried out jointly by the Yemeni Red Crescent and the ICRC (see Civilians).

Dissemination sessions conducted by the National Society with ICRC support and articles published in its bimonthly journal and quarterly newsletters produced at branch level helped spread knowledge of the Fundamental Principles of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement among various sectors of Yemeni society.

Red Crescent volunteers active in collecting and distributing RCMS and processing tracing requests received further ICRC on-the-job training.

On World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day (8 May), 13 Yemeni newspaper journalists participated in a round-table organized by the National Society with International Federation and ICRC support to raise media awareness of the Movement’s mission and IHL. On the same day, a photo exhibition illustrating the Movement’s activities in Yemen since the early 1960s was inaugurated at the National Society branch in Taiz.

In December, the ICRC completed furnishing the health unit and management sections of the newly opened National Society branch in Sa’ada governorate.

CIVIL SOCIETY

In 2006, the ICRC persisted with its efforts to promote IHL among the Yemeni media and academic and religious circles.

- public and private university deans and law lecturers, the Yemeni attorney-general and the rapporteur of the national IHL committee attended an ICRC workshop on the inclusion of IHL in law curricula
- preachers of different faiths and academics from several universities attended a seminar on IHL and Islamic law conducted jointly with the Yemeni Red Crescent
- several university libraries received IHL reference documentation
- the ICRC’s Exploring Humanitarian Law programme extended by ministerial decree from 4 to 8 governorates, bringing the overall number of schools teaching the programme to 48
- 30 teachers and 6 national education experts attended a workshop on the Exploring Humanitarian Law programme and prepared modules for future teaching of the subject in Yemeni schools
- 32 teachers newly involved in the Exploring Humanitarian Law programme participated in the 3rd training course on the programme

57 journalists took part in workshops on the relevance of IHL in today’s conflicts and reporting on humanitarian issues
The ICRC has been in Kuwait since the outbreak of the 1990–91 Gulf War. Its presence in the region is linked to humanitarian issues still outstanding from that war and those arising from the current armed conflict in Iraq, as well as to work relating to people deprived of their freedom in the Gulf Cooperation Council-member States. In addition, the ICRC focuses on promoting IHL and its own role as a neutral and independent humanitarian organization working in areas of armed conflict and other situations of internal violence. Reinforcing cooperation with the National Red Crescent Societies of the region is another priority.

**KEY POINTS**

In 2006, the ICRC:

- pursued action to clarify the fate of persons unaccounted for in connection with the 1990–91 Gulf War in the framework of the Tripartite Commission and its Technical Sub-committee set up under the auspices of the ICRC to address the issue;
- through its tracing and RCM services and in coordination with the region’s National Societies, restored contact between families in GCC countries and their relatives either detained/interned abroad (e.g. Afghanistan, Iraq and the US detention facility at the Guantanamo Bay Naval Station in Cuba) or separated from them by conflict;
- visited certain categories of detainees in Kuwait in order to monitor their treatment and living conditions;
- made progress in efforts to introduce IHL into national legislation, university education and the teaching and training programmes of the armed forces of GCC States;
- intensified networking with government officials, religious and opinion leaders and the Arab media to promote awareness of IHL-related issues and the ICRC’s humanitarian activities in conflict areas worldwide;
- worked with National Societies in GCC States to coordinate assistance activities in conflict areas and to enlist their support in promoting knowledge and implementation of IHL.

**CONTEXT**

The ongoing internal armed conflict in Iraq and international tensions over the Islamic Republic of Iran’s nuclear programme remained issues of major concern in the six member States of the GCC. More generally, the volatile situation in the Middle East was increasingly perceived as an impediment to economic, political and social development in the region. As major producers, GCC States nonetheless continued to benefit from high oil prices.

Several States in the region took steps to promote greater national dialogue and reconciliation through gradual political and social reforms. Parliamentary elections took place in Kuwait in June, following the dissolution of the national assembly by the emir in May, while Bahrain and the UAE renewed their parliaments. The result of the elections in Kuwait gave a clear majority to the opposition.

The emir of Kuwait, Sheikh Jaber al-Ahmad al-Sabah, died in January, having led the country since 1977. Initially, Crown Prince Sheikh Saad al-Abdullah al-Sabah was appointed emir but was replaced on medical grounds nine days later by Sheikh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah. The ruler of Dubai, Sheikh Maktoum bin Rashid al-Maktoum, who was vice-president and prime minister of the UAE, a federation of seven emirates, also died. His brother, Crown Prince Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid al-Maktoum, succeeded him as ruler of Dubai.

GCC States provided strong support in response to humanitarian needs in Lebanon arising from the conflict there in July–August 2006.

**EXPENDITURE (IN KCHF)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Protection</td>
<td>540</td>
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<td>Assistance</td>
<td>-</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prevention</td>
<td>1,208</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cooperation with National Societies</td>
<td>197</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General</td>
<td>118</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>2,063</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Of which: Overheads</strong></td>
<td><strong>126</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**IMPLEMENTATION RATE**

Expenditure/yearly budget: 82%

**PERSONNEL**

3 expatriates
16 national staff (daily workers not included)

The member States of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), namely Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates (UAE)
ICRC ACTION

Resolving humanitarian issues outstanding from the 1990–91 Gulf War and others arising from the regional consequences of the conflict in Iraq and the global fight against “terrorism” remained top priorities.

ICRC activities related to the 1990–91 Gulf War continued to focus mainly on clarifying the fate of people still missing from that conflict, in order to relieve the anxiety of their families. This included organizing the voluntary repatriation of those found to be alive or the recovery of identified human remains by the families of the deceased. POWs from the conflict were provided with certificates of detention to enable them to qualify for State benefits.

One session of the Tripartite Commission set up to deal with cases of persons missing from the 1990–91 Gulf War and three meetings of its the Technical Sub-committee were held during the year, chaired by the ICRC.

Further visits were made to people without diplomatic representation and detained in Kuwait as a result of the 1990–91 conflict to assess their treatment and conditions of detention and to facilitate their repatriation or resettlement in third countries upon release whenever such assistance was requested. Kuwaiti nationals held after their transfer from the US detention facility at Guantanamo Bay in implementation of their written approval for such visits to take place received in 2005.

As in the past, the ICRC helped people in GCC countries to trace and re-establish contact with family members detained/interned abroad or present in countries where armed conflict or other situations of violence had rendered communications unreliable.

A particular effort was made to reinforce contacts with government officials, religious and opinion leaders and the media in GCC States to gain increased acceptance of and support for the ICRC’s mandate, role and humanitarian activities in conflict areas worldwide.

The development of solid working partnerships with National Societies in the GCC region aimed at enhancing operational and financial support for the ICRC in the spirit of the Movement was another key priority.

Further steps were taken to encourage the incorporation of IHL into national legislation, school and university curricula and the teaching and training programmes of national armed forces in the region. In October, Kuwait announced the establishment of a national IHL committee, the second country among the GCC States to create one after the UAE.

CIVILIANS

Restoring family links

Families in the region continued to require assistance to trace and restore or maintain contact with family members detained/interred abroad or located in countries disrupted by armed conflict or other situations of violence. Many of the requests concerned family members held in detention facilities in Iraq and Guantanamo Bay.

The State authorities, Red Crescent Societies in the region and the ICRC reinforced cooperation to ensure that RCMs were collected and distributed with minimum delay.

- 391 RCMs collected from and 486 RCMs distributed to families in GCC countries
- new tracing requests registered for 40 people (6 females, 2 minors at the time of disappearance), 16 people located; 585 people (21 females, 48 minors at the time of disappearance) still being sought

Tracing the missing from the 1990–91 Gulf War

The ICRC continued to chair meetings of the Tripartite Commission and its Technical Sub-committee dealing with cases of persons missing from the 1990–91 Gulf War. The security situation in Iraq continued to slow down the process. A new approach (utilization of satellite imagery) was adopted but had yet to be implemented. No exhumation operations took place in Iraq during the year.

In coordination with the Saudi authorities, an Iraqi delegation, accompanied by ICRC delegates, conducted a visit to the northern border area of Saudi Arabia in late April in order to visit known gravesites of Iraqis killed during the 1990–91 Gulf War.

MAIN FIGURES AND INDICATORS

ICRC ANNUAL REPORT 2006

### PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Detainees visited and monitored individually</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of visits carried out</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of places of detention visited</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### RESTORING FAMILY LINKS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>RCMs collected</td>
<td>436</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RCMs distributed</td>
<td>486</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>People for whom a tracing request was newly registered</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tracing requests closed positively (persons located)</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tracing requests still being handled at 31 December 2006</td>
<td>585</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### DOCUMENTS ISSUED

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>People to whom a detention attestation was issued</td>
<td>3,463</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. Kuwait only
9 cases of Iraqi and 3 of Kuwaiti people unaccounted for resolved in the framework of the Tripartite Commission, bringing to 281 the number of cases clarified since 2003.

**PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM**

**Visits to detainees**

Visits were made to foreign detainees held at the Kuwaiti central prison for men and the central prison for women. Most of these detainees were Iraqis or stateless persons without diplomatic representation in Kuwait detained as a consequence of the 1990–91 conflict.

The ICRC, working in close cooperation with the authorities and the National Societies concerned, endeavoured to process in a timely and efficient manner requests for certificates of detention from former Iraqi POWs previously held in Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, whom it had visited and registered in the past.

No visits were made to detention centres in Qatar during the year.

- 30 detainees monitored individually (4 females, 2 minors), including 15 newly registered (2 females, 2 minors), during 6 visits to 3 places of detention in Kuwait
- 45 RCMs collected from detainees for distribution to their families in Jordan and elsewhere abroad
- 3,463 detention certificates issued to former Iraqi POWs and detainees or their families to enable them to benefit from State allowances
- 60 official documents relayed between family members living in GCC countries and abroad and 15 certificates of various types (not related to detention) issued
- 10 government officials representing all 6 GCC States participated in the 3rd regional seminar on IHL organized jointly by the ICRC, the Arab League and the Arab Center for Legal and Judicial Studies in Beirut (see Lebanon)
- some 45 judges and prosecutors from GCC countries participated in a training course on IHL, organized jointly with the Kuwait Institute for Legal and Judicial Studies; a similar course was organized for Kuwaiti Foreign Ministry officials
- 5 officials from the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Justice of various GCC States participated in a training course on IHL in Abu Dhabi
- some 20 diplomats representing 18 Arab States participated in the first regional seminar for Arab diplomats held in Abu Dhabi

**ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS**

Action to promote the integration of IHL into military teaching and training programmes in GCC States remained a priority. With the exception of Saudi Arabia, at least two comprehensive courses on IHL had been held for military instructors and senior officers in all GCC States in recent years.

- some 60 senior officers at the Kuwait Command and Staff College attended presentations on the provisions of IHL relating to military conduct in armed conflict
- 25 officers in charge of national dissemination programmes for the Bahraini Defence Force participated in a three-day refresher course on IHL
- the armed forces in Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar and the UAE received publications on the provisions of IHL relating to military operations

**AUTHORITIES**

**Promoting the implementation of IHL**

GCC States were urged to adhere to IHL treaties and conventions to which they were not yet party and to incorporate into national legislation those already ratified.

- 13 government officials representing 5 GCC States participated in a regional meeting on national implementation of IHL organized by the ICRC and the League of Arab States in Cairo (see Egypt)
- 12 reporters and editors in Dubai attended a workshop on IHL in media reporting
- 20 journalists from Kuwait and the UAE attended 2 ICRC seminars on IHL in media reporting
- 4 journalists from Bahrain, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and the UAE participated in the 4th regional seminar on IHL for Arab journalists in Morocco (see Tunisia)
- representatives of 5 charity organizations from Bahrain, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and the UAE participated in an NGO meeting in Cairo (see Egypt)
- 9 Ministry of Education representatives from the UAE participated in an IHL course in Abu Dhabi
- more than 150 law students in the UAE attended presentations on IHL and the ICRC’s mandate, role and activities
- universities in Bahrain and the UAE received IHL documentation
- 4 religious scholars from Kuwait, Qatar and Saudi Arabia (2) attended a conference on IHL and Islamic law in Qom (see Islamic Republic of Iran)

**CIVIL SOCIETY**

Contacts with religious and opinion leaders in GCC countries were intensified to increase understanding of the independent, neutral and impartial nature of the ICRC’s humanitarian mandate and activities worldwide.

The Arab and international media based in GCC countries were regularly briefed on ICRC activities, humanitarian issues and IHL.

**RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT**

National Societies of the region were encouraged to work closely with the ICRC in relief operations for conflict victims in Iraq, the Palestinian territories, Somalia and Sudan. As well as in Pakistan following the 2005 earthquake.

Consultations were held with National Societies in the region to share information and to determine the most effective course of action in responding to humanitarian emergencies. This closer partnership was encouraged in the framework and spirit of the Seville Agreement and in accordance with the Statutes and Fundamental Principles of the Movement.

A memorandum of understanding was signed between the Saudi Arabian Red Crescent Society and the ICRC with regard to the National Society’s contributions to ICRC basic health care projects in Somalia. This followed an agreement signed with the Saudi Red Crescent and the Saudi Committee for Relief of the Palestinian People in May 2005 concerning contributions to ICRC humanitarian assistance programmes in the Palestinian territories. The Bahrain Red Crescent Society maintained its support for the latter programmes.
Red Crescent Societies in GCC countries continued to collect and deliver RCMs exchanged between families living in GCC States and relatives detained/interned abroad.

- the ICRC president attended the 34th General Assembly of the Organization of Arab Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
- National Society representatives from Bahrain, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, the UAE and Yemen participated in a four-day seminar on IHL organized in Manama by the Organization of Arab Red Crescent and Red Cross Societies, the Bahrain Red Crescent Society and the ICRC
- 20 staff and volunteers of the Kuwait Red Crescent Society attended an ICRC seminar on IHL
- 10 staff and volunteers of the Red Crescent Society of the UAE participated in an IHL course in Abu Dhabi
In 2006, the ICRC:

- continued detention visits in Mauritania and Tunisia and submitted its first reports detailing its observations and recommendations to the detaining authorities in both countries;
- acted as a neutral intermediary to help clarify cases of people still unaccounted for in connection with the Western Sahara conflict;
- restored or maintained links between families in countries of the Maghreb and their relatives detained/interned in Iraq, the US detention facility at Guantanamo Bay Naval Station in Cuba and elsewhere abroad;
- promoted the national implementation of IHL and its integration into the training programmes of the armed forces and into the curricula of secondary schools, academic institutions and magistrate schools in the region, in close cooperation with the existing national IHL committees (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Morocco and Tunisia);
- high-level meetings were held for the first time between the ICRC and the Libyan military authorities with the aim of establishing a cooperation programme for the integration of IHL into military training curricula;
- developed a number of initiatives aimed at spreading knowledge of and support for IHL within civil society in the region.

At the beginning of 2006, after nearly two years of investigations into human rights violations allegedly committed in Morocco between 1956 and 1999, the mandate of the Equity and Reconciliation Commission (IER) appointed by King Mohammed VI ended. The commission had submitted its final report and recommendations to the king at the end of 2005, including proposals for compensation to be awarded to all victims of proven human rights violations. The king announced the creation of the Consultative Council on Human Rights (CCDH) to finalize the work of the IER and to monitor the implementation of its recommendations.

Following a visit to Western Sahara’s main city of Laayoune in March, King Mohammed VI announced a completely new set-up for the Royal Consultative Council for Saharan Affairs (CORCAS), with the main mandate to prepare a detailed plan for the autonomy of Western Sahara under Moroccan sovereignty and to promote its acceptance by the international community. In early December, CORCAS reportedly submitted a draft plan to the king which, when finalized, was to be submitted to the UN before the Security Council’s next session to be held on this issue early in 2007.

A large-scale international relief operation was launched in February in response to emergency needs in Sahrawi refugee camps in the Tindouf region of Algeria following flooding caused by torrential rainfall.

The Polisario Front’s self-declared Sahrawi Republic reported that it had destroyed part of its stockpile of anti-personnel mines in February in the first such move since the ceasefire was declared in 1991.

The first half of 2006 saw a marked increase in African migrants entering Mauritania to embark on a risky passage to the Canary Islands. Mauritania, Morocco and the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya remained the preferred transit countries for many sub-Saharan nationals and others seeking to enter Europe irregularly. Attempts to migrate from Morocco and the Moroccan-controlled Western Sahara persisted despite the reinforcement of surveillance and control measures, although at a reduced level compared with previous years.

Two Euro-African conferences on migration and development were held, one in Rabat in June and the other in Tripoli in...

The regional delegation based in Tunis, which has been operating since 1987, regularly visits people deprived of their freedom in Tunisia and Mauritania to monitor their treatment and conditions of detention. Acting as a neutral intermediary, it is also involved in efforts to resolve issues of humanitarian concern arising from the aftermath of the Western Sahara conflict. It works to promote implementation of IHL by the authorities and its integration into school and university curricula and into training programmes for the armed forces. National Societies and the media in the region are essential partners in this process.

**KEY POINTS**

- Protection: 2,433
- Assistance: 6
- Prevention: 1,290
- Cooperation with National Societies: 396
- General: -

**CONTEXT**

The regional delegation based in Tunis, which has been operating since 1987, regularly visits people deprived of their freedom in Tunisia and Mauritania to monitor their treatment and conditions of detention. Acting as a neutral intermediary, it is also involved in efforts to resolve issues of humanitarian concern arising from the aftermath of the Western Sahara conflict. It works to promote implementation of IHL by the authorities and its integration into school and university curricula and into training programmes for the armed forces. National Societies and the media in the region are essential partners in this process.

**EXPENDITURE (IN KCHF)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount (KCHF)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Protection</td>
<td>2,433</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assistance</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prevention</td>
<td>1,290</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cooperation with National Societies</td>
<td>396</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**IMPLEMENTATION RATE**

Expenditure/yearly budget: 100%

**PERSONNEL**

14 expatriates
17 national staff (daily workers not included)
November. Discussions focused on control of migratory routes and flows and promotion of development projects in the home countries of migrants.

A constitutional referendum was held in June in Mauritania, followed by parliamentary elections in October, events seen as major steps towards a transfer to civilian rule after the military seized power in a bloodless coup in August 2005. They also paved the way for the staging of presidential elections foreseen for March 2007.

Throughout 2006, the authorities in Morocco and other North African countries reportedly arrested hundreds of alleged members of outlawed armed Islamist groups. Several suspected members of such groups were reportedly either killed, wounded or captured in a confrontation with Tunisian security forces in December.

ICRC ACTION

The ICRC pursued regular visits to people deprived of their freedom in Mauritania and Tunisia, begun in 2005 following the signing of agreements on access to detainees with the respective authorities. The organization also continued to focus on addressing humanitarian issues stemming from the 1975–91 Western Sahara conflict.

Acting as a neutral intermediary, the ICRC worked with the Moroccan authorities and the Polisario Front to resolve the cases of combatants and civilians from both sides still missing in connection with the Western Sahara conflict. It continued to conduct this work on the basis of lists of missing persons provided by the Moroccan authorities and the Polisario Front.

Following an assessment mission in July, a cooperation agreement was signed with the Polisario Front health authorities in November, providing for the opening of a physical rehabilitation centre in the Tindouf region of Algeria for disabled Sahrawis, particularly mine victims. The centre was expected to open in mid-February 2007.

Another ongoing priority for the ICRC was to help accelerate the integration of IHL into national legislation, military teaching and training programmes and academic curricula in countries of the region, in conjunction with national authorities and implementation bodies.

Particular importance was given to developing relations and cooperation with key sectors of civil society in the region, such as the media, the Tunis-based Arab Institute for Human Rights, the Moroccan Association for Human Rights, professional associations of lawyers, NGOs and influential religious and academic scholars and institutions.

The ICRC closely monitored the growing problem of irregular migration, particularly in Mauritania and Morocco, and endeavoured to ensure a coherent Movement response in terms of assistance, restoring family links and the assessment of emergency needs of irregular immigrants in transit camps and places of detention. Two small-scale emergency food and non-food distributions were organized to assist groups of migrants stranded on Mauritanian shores.

As in past years, people in the region were able to restore or maintain contact with family members detained/interned in Afghanistan, Iraq and the US detention facility at Guantanamo Bay Naval Station in Cuba through the RCM network.

In February and December, the ICRC visited four Moroccan prisoners released and repatriated from Guantanamo Bay and subsequently arrested in Morocco.

CIVILIANS

Through the tracing and RCM network, families in North Africa were able to locate and restore contact with close relatives detained/interned abroad or present in countries where armed conflict or other situations of violence made communication difficult. Most tracing and RCM requests concerned relatives held in Afghanistan, Guantanamo Bay and Iraq.

Two Moroccans and one Tunisian were repatriated under ICRC auspices after their release from detention/internment in Iraq.

As a neutral intermediary, the ICRC pursued activities with the Moroccan authorities and the Polisario Front aimed at resolving the cases of persons still unaccounted for on both sides in connection with the Western Sahara conflict.

The ICRC continued to work on the basis of lists of missing persons provided by the Moroccan authorities and the Polisario Front totalling 587 people. With the aim of collecting additional information on individual cases, contacts were reinforced with the IER and the CCDH in Morocco, as well
as with Sahrawi family associations and the UN Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances.

- 219 RCMs collected from and 293 distributed to civilians, mainly families of people detained/interned abroad or living in countries where connections were disrupted by conflict or other situations of violence
- new tracing cases registered for 20 people (9 females, 4 minors at the time of disappearance), 6 people located, and 761 people (54 females, 38 minors at the time of disappearance) still being sought

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

The ICRC continued to visit people deprived of their freedom in places of detention in Mauritania and Tunisia, in accordance with agreements signed with the respective authorities in 2005. During the visits, special attention was paid to detainees convicted of acts endangering State security, in particular in Tunisia.

In February, the ICRC submitted its first report to the Tunisian authorities detailing its observations and recommendations regarding treatment and conditions of detention in the country’s nine largest prisons visited by the ICRC since it was granted access to them in May 2005. Follow-up visits were carried out, as were visits to other prisons and to people remanded in custody.

In addition to regular visits to places of detention in Mauritania, the ICRC provided advice to the Mauritanian penitentiary authorities in its efforts to improve the prison system. In this respect, a report was submitted to the Ministry of Justice in July.

Three visits were also made to four detainees arrested in Morocco following their transfer from Guantanamo Bay in 2004 and 2006.

- 22,275 detainees visited, 365 of them monitored individually, including 271 newly registered, during 36 visits to 32 prisons in Tunisia; 7 RCMs collected from and 34 distributed to detainees
- 925 detainees visited, 31 monitored individually, including 13 newly registered, during 33 visits to 21 prisons in Mauritania; 45 RCMs collected from the detainees for their families
- 16 detention certificates issued to former detainees or their families, of which 15 to former prisoners of the Western Sahara conflict or their families

AUTHORITIES

The ICRC sponsored the participation of officials from the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Mauritania and Morocco in the fifth regional meeting of government experts on IHL held in Cairo in February (see Egypt). Both the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and Tunisia established national IHL committees.

The Moroccan national IHL committee submitted to the Ministry of Justice a draft law on the protection of the emblem prepared with ICRC support.

Moroccan magistrates, judges, prosecutors and prison administration officials in the Rabat-Casablanca area attended sessions on IHL co-organized with the Moroccan national IHL committee.

A round-table on the role of lawmakers in the national implementation of IHL was organized in cooperation with the relevant commissions of the two chambers of the Moroccan parliament.

ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

High-level meetings were held for the first time between the ICRC and the Libyan military authorities with the aim of establishing a cooperation programme for the integration of IHL into military training curricula.

Events and activities to promote knowledge of and respect for IHL among the armed forces were organized throughout the region.

- 40 members of the Tunisian armed forces attended a course on IHL
- 80 Moroccan armed forces officers attended presentations on IHL and the Movement held at the Royal Military Training College
- 50 Tunisian armed forces officers attended a presentation on IHL and the Movement held at the Ecole d’Etat-major in Tunis
- 30 Tunisian armed forces officers (air force and navy) participated in a five-day IHL course
- 22 Mauritanian military instructors attended an IHL train-the-trainer course
- training heads at the Naval Academy of Tripoli and 4 members of the Libyan national IHL committee attended a session on IHL
CIVIL SOCIETY

The ICRC continued to build contacts with influential members of civil society and to seek their support in the promotion and implementation of IHL.

- more than 30 media representatives from 14 Arab countries and the Islamic Republic of Iran attended a workshop in Casablanca on the application of IHL in armed conflict
- members of the Bar Association of Casablanca took part in a seminar on the International Criminal Court
- 150 scholars and students attended a seminar on the protection of civilians in armed conflict under Islamic law and IHL jointly organized with the Qarawiyyin University in Fez
- the director of the Arab Institute of Human Rights and the Secretary-General of the Moroccan Association for Human Rights participated in an ICRC workshop for Arab NGOs and charities in Cairo (see Egypt)
- 35 members of various Moroccan human rights organizations participated in a two-day workshop on IHL and human rights law held in Rabat
- an ICRC photo exhibition on “Women in War” organized with the Tunisian Human Rights League and the Tunisian Association of Democratic Women to mark International Women’s Day
- a study day co-organized by the Tunisian Bar Association and the ICRC on IHL, ICRC activities in the Arab world and current challenges for humanitarian action
- several lectures on IHL, the ICRC and the Movement given to various academic and human rights audiences
- education officials from 12 Arab countries attended the 4th regional conference on the ICRC’s Exploring Humanitarian Law programme held in Tunis in April, organized in conjunction with the Tunisian National Pedagogical and Educational Research Centre
- Moroccan higher education officials, deans of law faculties and academics attended a seminar on the teaching of IHL in universities, organized by the Ministries of Justice and Education in conjunction with the ICRC

RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT

ICRC cooperation efforts focused essentially on helping National Societies in the region to develop their capacities to carry out tracing activities and promote IHL and the Fundamental Principles.

The ICRC endeavoured to monitor the humanitarian aspects of irregular migration in North Africa, and to explore ways of developing a coherent Movement response to humanitarian needs arising from this phenomenon.

Follow-up visits were made to six Moroccan Red Crescent branches to assess their capacities in the area of restoring family links.

The ICRC conducted a preliminary assessment of the humanitarian consequences of landmines and other explosive remnants of war in the Moroccan-administered Western Sahara, and explored with the Moroccan authorities and the local Red Crescent Society what action could be taken to address them.

In Mauritania, the ICRC maintained its support to the National Society’s programme to promote awareness of and respect for IHL and the Fundamental Principles. It also cooperated with the Mauritanian Red Crescent in carrying out two assistance operations for 149 Senegalese migrants stranded north of Nouakchott.

Together with the Spanish Red Cross, the ICRC supported the first-aid training of 128 Mauritanian Red Crescent volunteers, who were subsequently deployed in various towns during election rallies in November.
MAIN FIGURES AND INDICATORS
## Protection Figures and Indicators

### People Deprived of Their Freedom

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>World</th>
<th>Africa</th>
<th>Asia &amp; The Pacific</th>
<th>Europe &amp; The Americas</th>
<th>Middle East &amp; North Africa</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Detainees visited</td>
<td>478,299</td>
<td>190,461</td>
<td>145,374</td>
<td>41,006</td>
<td>101,458</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Detainees visited and monitored individually</td>
<td>41,918</td>
<td>7,847</td>
<td>7,811</td>
<td>6,782</td>
<td>19,478</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Detainees newly registered in 2006</td>
<td>25,369</td>
<td>5,117</td>
<td>4,405</td>
<td>2,590</td>
<td>13,257</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Detainees released</td>
<td>32,917</td>
<td>3,999</td>
<td>4,052</td>
<td>2,113</td>
<td>22,753</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of visits carried out</td>
<td>6,006</td>
<td>2,298</td>
<td>1,618</td>
<td>1,197</td>
<td>893</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of places of detention visited</td>
<td>2,577</td>
<td>986</td>
<td>751</td>
<td>592</td>
<td>248</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of detainees who benefited from the ICRC’s family visits programme</td>
<td>18,715</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>1,659</td>
<td>2,313</td>
<td>14,669</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female detainees visited and monitored individually</td>
<td>1,158</td>
<td>215</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>462</td>
<td>181</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female detainees newly registered in 2006</td>
<td>632</td>
<td>182</td>
<td>164</td>
<td>208</td>
<td>78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female detainees released</td>
<td>698</td>
<td>147</td>
<td>291</td>
<td>160</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of females who benefited from the ICRC’s family visits programme</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Detained minors visited and monitored individually</td>
<td>1,682</td>
<td>448</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>923</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Detained minors newly registered in 2006</td>
<td>1,417</td>
<td>355</td>
<td>233</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>819</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Detained minors released</td>
<td>1,554</td>
<td>211</td>
<td>276</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>1,057</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Detained minors who benefited from the ICRC’s family visits programme</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### International Armed Conflicts

**Third Geneva Convention**

- Prisoners of war (POWs) visited: 322, 32, 286, 7
- POWs newly registered in 2006: 3
- POWs released: 84
- Number of visits carried out: 34
- Number of places visited: 7

**Fourth Geneva Convention**

- Civilian internees (CIs) and others visited: 8,832
- CIs and others newly registered in 2006: 5,507
- CIs and others released: 8,278
- Number of visits carried out: 397
- Number of places visited: 48

### Restoring Family Links

#### Red Cross Messages (RCMs)

| RCMs collected | 331,804 | 247,846 | 17,415 | 9,038 | 57,505 |
| of which from detainees | 56,905 | 11,437 | 6,394 | 5,595 | 33,479 |
| of which from unaccompanied minors/separated children | 2,919 | 2,816 | 103 | - | - |
| of which from civilians | 271,980 | 233,503 | 10,918 | 3,443 | 24,026 |
| RCMs distributed | 302,157 | 227,520 | 17,296 | 7,633 | 49,738 |
| of which to detainees | 43,997 | 7,788 | 5,776 | 4,058 | 26,375 |
| of which to unaccompanied minors/separated children | 2,662 | 2,583 | 79 | - | - |
| of which to civilians | 255,498 | 217,149 | 11,411 | 3,575 | 23,363 |
| RCMs not distributed (back to sender) | 30,075 | 23,572 | 1,041 | 117 | 5,345 |

#### Other Means of Family Contact

- Telephone calls made to relatives (by satellite or cellular phone): 4,933
- Names published in the media: 26,275
- Names published on the ICRC website: 124,509
### Reunification, transfers and repatriations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>WORLD</th>
<th>AFRICA</th>
<th>ASIA &amp; THE PACIFIC</th>
<th>EUROPE &amp; THE AMERICAS</th>
<th>MIDDLE EAST &amp; NORTH AFRICA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>People reunited with their families</td>
<td>1,120</td>
<td>1,099</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Civilians transferred</td>
<td>2,472</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>164</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2,281</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Human remains transferred</td>
<td>277</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>165</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Civilians repatriated</td>
<td>1,029</td>
<td>1,017</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Human remains repatriated</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Tracing requests

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>People for whom a tracing request was newly registered</th>
<th>16,664</th>
<th>12,378</th>
<th>2,420</th>
<th>1,623</th>
<th>243</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>who were females</td>
<td>2,978</td>
<td>2,236</td>
<td>408</td>
<td>295</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>who were minors at the time of disappearance</td>
<td>2,291</td>
<td>2,318</td>
<td>848</td>
<td>110</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tracing requests closed positively (person located)</td>
<td>11,569</td>
<td>8,188</td>
<td>1,284</td>
<td>1,892</td>
<td>195</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tracing requests closed negatively (person not located)</td>
<td>5,414</td>
<td>3,870</td>
<td>516</td>
<td>780</td>
<td>246</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tracing requests still being handled at 31 December 2006</td>
<td>68,049</td>
<td>29,637</td>
<td>11,206</td>
<td>24,465</td>
<td>3,741</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of which for females</td>
<td>12,987</td>
<td>9,085</td>
<td>1,079</td>
<td>2,650</td>
<td>173</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of which for minors at the time of disappearance</td>
<td>7,312</td>
<td>3,956</td>
<td>1,970</td>
<td>1,186</td>
<td>190</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Missing persons

| Cases of missing persons newly opened | 2,126 | - | 643 | 1,483 | - |
| who were females                      | 320   | - | 73  | 247   | - |
| who were minors when reported missing | 153   | - | 80  | 73    | - |
| Cases of missing persons closed positively | 2,343 | - | 527 | 1,804 | 12 |
| Cases of missing persons closed negatively | 812   | - | 120 | 692   | - |
| Cases of missing persons still being handled at 31 December 2006 | 36,084 | 115 | 9,449 | 24,359 | 2,162 |
| of which for females                   | 3,415  | - | 751 | 2,624 | 40 |
| of which for minors at the time of disappearance | 2,490 | - | 1,253 | 1,171 | 66 |

### Unaccompanied minors (UAMs) and separated children (SCs)

| UAMs/SCs newly registered | 1,565 | 1,500 | 65  | -   | -  |
| UAMs/SCs reunited with their families | 1,555 | 1,497 | 58  | -   | -  |
| UAMs/SCs cases still being handled at 31 December 2006 | 1,876 | 1,787 | 89  | -   | -  |
| UAMs/SCs by the ICRC       | 1,081  | 1,072 | 9   | -   | -  |
| UAMs/SCs by the ICRC       | 3,774  | 3,684 | 87  | -   | 3  |

### Unaccompanied demobilized child soldiers

| Demobilized child soldiers newly registered | 435  | 389  | 46   | -   | -  |
| Demobilized child soldiers reunited with their families | 428  | 389  | 39   | -   | -  |
| Demobilized child soldiers by the ICRC      | 504  | 475  | 29   | -   | -  |
| Demobilized child soldiers by the ICRC      | 306  | 302  | 4    | -   | -  |
| Cases of demobilized child soldiers still being handled at 31 December 2006 | 337  | 256  | 81   | -   | -  |

### Documents Issued

| People to whom travel documents were issued | 5,862 | 560  | 437  | 188  | 4,677 |
| People to whom a detention attestation was issued | 24,421 | 747  | 348  | 566  | 22,760 |
| Other attestations issued                   | 426   | 3   | 78   | 286  | 59   |
| Documents transmitted/transfered           | 64,446 | 178  | 1    | 55   | 64,212 |

### Persons Soliciting ICRC Offices in the Field

| People who visited or telephoned ICRC offices | 1,044,474 | 58,896 | 30,643 | 46,080 | 908,855 |

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1. Includes female minors. The term "women", used in previous reports, also included female minors.
2. Figures for missing persons are included in the figures for tracing requests above.
3. Figures for unaccompanied demobilized child soldiers are included in the figures for unaccompanied minors and separated children above.
PROTECTION FIGURES AND INDICATORS – EXPLANATIONS

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

Detainees visited
During the period under consideration, the number of detainees visited, whether monitored individually or otherwise. It includes detainees seen and registered for the first time, and those registered previously and visited again, or not visited, but still of ICRC concern, and groups having received aid collectively without being registered individually.

Detainees visited and monitored individually
Number of detainees visited and monitored individually, i.e. those seen for the first time and registered, and those registered previously and visited again, during the period under consideration.

Detainees newly registered in 2006
Number of detainees visited for the first time since their arrest and registered during the period under consideration.

Detainees released
Number of detainees released as per information received from various sources, including those transferred or repatriated by the ICRC upon release, during the period under consideration.

Number of visits carried out
Number of visits made, including those to places found empty when visited, during the period under consideration.

Number of places of detention visited
Number of places of detention visited, including places that were found empty when visited, during the period under consideration.

Number of detainees benefiting from the ICRC’s family-visits programme
Number of detainees who were visited by a relative via an ICRC-organized or -financed visit during the period under consideration.

INTERNATIONAL ARMED CONFLICT (THIRD GENEVA CONVENTION)

Prisoners of war (POWs) visited
Number of POWs visited and monitored individually during the period under consideration.

POWs newly registered in 2006
Number of POWs visited for the first time since capture, and monitored individually during the period under consideration.

POWs released during 2006
Number of POWs released during the period under consideration.

POWs repatriated by/via the ICRC
Number of POWs released and repatriated by the ICRC during the period under consideration.

INTERNATIONAL ARMED CONFLICT (FOURTH GENEVA CONVENTION)

Civilian internees (CIs) and others visited
Number of CIs and other persons protected by the Fourth Geneva Convention who were visited and monitored individually during the period under consideration.

CIs and others newly registered in 2006
Number of CIs and other persons protected by the Fourth Geneva Convention who were visited for the first time since the start of their internment and monitored individually during the period under consideration.

CIs and others released
Number of CIs and other persons protected by the Fourth Geneva Convention who were released, as per information received from various sources, including those transferred or repatriated by the ICRC upon release, during the period under consideration.

Number of visits carried out
Number of visits carried out to places holding or having held CIs and other persons protected by the Fourth Geneva Convention during the period under consideration.

Number of places visited
Number of places holding or having held CIs and other persons protected by the Fourth Geneva Convention visited during the period under consideration.

RESTORING FAMILY LINKS

RED CROSS MESSAGES (RCMS)

RCMs collected
Number of RCMs collected, regardless of the destination of the RCM during the period under consideration.

RCMs distributed
Number of RCMs distributed, regardless of the origin of the RCM during the period under consideration.

RCMs not distributed and sent back to sender
Number of RCMs which were impossible to distribute – either because the addressee could not be located or because the addressee refused to accept the RCM (for whatever reason) – and sent back to sender during the period under consideration.
REUNIFICATION, TRANSFERS AND REPATRIATION

People reunited with their families
Number of people reunited with their families under the auspices of the ICRC during the period under consideration.

Civilians transferred/human remains transferred
Number of civilians, not counting those in a context of detention, or human remains transferred by the ICRC during the period under consideration.

Civilians repatriated/human remains repatriated
Number of civilians, not counting those in a context of detention, or human remains repatriated by the ICRC during the period under consideration.

TRACING REQUESTS

People for whom a tracing request has been newly registered
Number of people for whom a tracing request was initiated during the period under consideration – e.g. because there has been no news of them, were not located by RCM, were sought by their families, were presumed to have been arrested and/or detained – and for whom the ICRC is going to take steps to locate them or clarify their fate.

Tracing requests closed positively
Number of people for whom a tracing request had been initiated and, during the period under consideration, were located or whose fate was established (closed positively).

Tracing request closed negatively
Number of people for whom a tracing request had been initiated and, during the period under consideration, were not located or whose fate was not established and for whom the ICRC has exhausted its tracing possibilities (closed negatively).

Tracing requests still being handled at 31 December
Number of people for whom tracing requests were still open and pending at the end of the period under consideration at 31 December.

MISSING PERSONS

Cases of missing persons newly opened
Number of people for whom a missing person file was opened during the period under consideration.

Cases of missing persons closed positively
Number of people whose case has been resolved (closed positively), i.e. people who have been located or confirmed deceased, during the period under consideration.

Cases of missing persons closed negatively
Number of people whose cases have not been resolved, and for whom the ICRC has decided not to pursue enquiries (closed negatively), during the period under consideration.

Cases of missing persons still being handled at 31 December
Number of people whose cases are still open (pending) at the end of the period under consideration.

UNACCOMPANIED MINORS (UAMs)\footnote{3}/SEPARATED CHILDREN (SCs)\footnote{4}/DEMOBILIZED CHILD SOLDIERS

UAMs/SCs/demobilized child soldiers newly registered
Number of UAMs/SCs/demobilized child soldiers registered by the ICRC or by another organization, whose data are centralized by the ICRC during the period under consideration.

UAMs/SCs/demobilized child soldiers reunited with their families
Number of UAMs/SCs/demobilized child soldiers reunited with their families by the ICRC or by another organization during the period under consideration.

Cases of UAMs/SCs/demobilized child soldiers still being handled at 31 December
Number of UAMs/SCs/demobilized child soldiers whose cases were opened but who have not yet been reunited with their families by the ICRC or by another organization during the period under consideration; these include cases concerning either children whose parents are being sought, or children whose parents have been found but with whom they have not yet been reunited.

DOCUMENTS ISSUED

People to whom travel documents were issued
Number of beneficiaries of travel documents issued by the ICRC during the period under consideration.

People to whom a detention attestation was issued
Number of people who received a certificate testifying to their detention according to ICRC records of visits, during the period under consideration.

Other attestations issued
Number of attestations – not related to detention – issued during the period under consideration.

Documents transmitted/transferred
Number of documents – e.g. passport, power of attorney, death certificate, birth certificate, marriage certificate, and ICRC certificates such as house destruction certificates, tracing requests (other than detention certificates) – forwarded or transmitted during the period under consideration.

PEOPLE SOLICITING ICRC OFFICES IN THE FIELD

People who visited or telephoned ICRC offices
Number of people who contacted an ICRC office in the field, either in person or by telephone, during the period under consideration.

\footnote{1. All cases of people whose fate is not known either to their families or the ICRC and for whom the ICRC is going to undertake some kind of action to clarify their fate or to confirm their alleged fate; these can include allegations of arrest and co-detention, and tracing requests collected following unsuccessful attempts to restore family links by other means.}

\footnote{2. Figures for missing persons are included in the figures for training requests.}

\footnote{3. Child under 18 or under legal age of majority separated from both parents and their families by the ICRC or by another organization during the period under consideration; these include cases concerning either children whose parents are being sought, or children whose parents have been found but with whom they have not yet been reunited.}

\footnote{4. Child under 18 or under legal age of majority who is separated from both parents and from all other relatives and not being cared for by an adult who, by law or custom, is responsible for doing so.}
### ASSISTANCE FIGURES AND INDICATORS

#### ECONOMIC SECURITY (Number of beneficiaries)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>WORLD</th>
<th>AFRICA</th>
<th>ASIA &amp; THE PACIFIC</th>
<th>EUROPE &amp; THE AMERICAS</th>
<th>MIDDLE EAST &amp; NORTH AFRICA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Civilians (residents, returnees, etc.)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Essential household items</td>
<td>1,689,397</td>
<td>683,146</td>
<td>292,082</td>
<td>67,305</td>
<td>646,864</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food</td>
<td>2,172,579</td>
<td>1,035,315</td>
<td>198,852</td>
<td>61,114</td>
<td>877,296</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agricultural and veterinary inputs and micro-economic initiatives</td>
<td>2,670,540</td>
<td>2,392,341</td>
<td>262,783</td>
<td>4,880</td>
<td>10,536</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Internally displaced people</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Essential household items</td>
<td>2,226,229</td>
<td>1,861,422</td>
<td>271,729</td>
<td>93,078</td>
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<tr>
<td>Food</td>
<td>481,686</td>
<td>225,571</td>
<td>171,335</td>
<td>84,780</td>
<td>-</td>
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<tr>
<td>Agricultural and veterinary inputs and micro-economic initiatives</td>
<td>784,698</td>
<td>736,773</td>
<td>35,292</td>
<td>12,633</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Detainees</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Essential household items</td>
<td>127,661</td>
<td>99,150</td>
<td>28,489</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food</td>
<td>3,019</td>
<td>2,997</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agricultural and veterinary inputs and micro-economic initiatives</td>
<td>9,496</td>
<td>9,496</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total all target populations</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Essential household items</td>
<td>4,043,287</td>
<td>2,643,718</td>
<td>592,300</td>
<td>160,405</td>
<td>646,864</td>
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<tr>
<td>Food</td>
<td>2,657,284</td>
<td>1,263,883</td>
<td>370,187</td>
<td>145,916</td>
<td>877,296</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agricultural and veterinary inputs and micro-economic initiatives</td>
<td>3,464,734</td>
<td>3,138,610</td>
<td>298,075</td>
<td>17,513</td>
<td>10,536</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### WATER AND HABITAT (Number of beneficiaries)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Completed projects</th>
<th>Ongoing projects all target populations</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Civilians (residents, returnees, etc.)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water supply schemes and sanitation systems</td>
<td>12,162,341</td>
<td>3,050,536</td>
<td>12,912,004</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Habitat structures</td>
<td>64,077</td>
<td>174,594</td>
<td>8,612</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Internally displaced people</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water supply schemes and sanitation systems</td>
<td>749,663</td>
<td>249,223</td>
<td>12,912,004</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Habitat structures</td>
<td>4,484</td>
<td>632</td>
<td>8,612</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Detainees</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water supply schemes and sanitation systems</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Habitat structures</td>
<td>135,030</td>
<td>10,329</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wounded and sick (number of beds)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water supply schemes and sanitation systems</td>
<td>8,612</td>
<td>764</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Habitat structures</td>
<td>844</td>
<td>5,278</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Total completed projects all target populations

| Water supply schemes and sanitation systems (number of beneficiaries) | 12,912,004 | 5,165,882 | 357,446 | 856,106 | 6,532,570 |
| Habitat structures (number of beneficiaries) | 203,591 | 100,465 | 31,681 | - | - |
| Habitat structures (number of beds) | 8,612 | 844 | 1,726 | 764 | 5,278 |
### COMMUNITY HEALTH ¹ (Number of beneficiaries)

#### Health centres supported

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>WORLD</th>
<th>AF RICA</th>
<th>ASIA &amp; THE PACIFIC</th>
<th>EUROPE &amp; THE AMERICAS</th>
<th>MIDDLE EAST &amp; NORTH AFRICA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of health centres supported</td>
<td>303</td>
<td>130</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>89</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monthly average of health centres supported</td>
<td>155</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>22</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Estimated population covered by these health centres (monthly average)</td>
<td>1,254,299</td>
<td>953,701</td>
<td>235,246</td>
<td>65,352</td>
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</table>

#### Activities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>WORLD</th>
<th>AF RICA</th>
<th>ASIA &amp; THE PACIFIC</th>
<th>EUROPE &amp; THE AMERICAS</th>
<th>MIDDLE EAST &amp; NORTH AFRICA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of ante- and postnatal consultations (total)</td>
<td>115,442</td>
<td>102,099</td>
<td>13,053</td>
<td>290</td>
<td>-</td>
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<tr>
<td>Age &lt; 15</td>
<td>10,684</td>
<td>10,663</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age &gt; 15</td>
<td>104,758</td>
<td>91,436</td>
<td>13,051</td>
<td>271</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of immunization activities (total)</td>
<td>553,546</td>
<td>439,969</td>
<td>108,072</td>
<td>5,505</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age 0–5</td>
<td>411,405</td>
<td>320,469</td>
<td>88,331</td>
<td>2,605</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age 5–15</td>
<td>48,509</td>
<td>45,614</td>
<td>1,712</td>
<td>1,183</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age &gt; 15</td>
<td>93,632</td>
<td>73,886</td>
<td>18,029</td>
<td>1,717</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Of which: number of polio immunizations (total)</td>
<td>225,943</td>
<td>167,691</td>
<td>56,650</td>
<td>1,602</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age 0–5</td>
<td>202,775</td>
<td>147,451</td>
<td>54,116</td>
<td>1,208</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age 5–15</td>
<td>756</td>
<td>93</td>
<td>390</td>
<td>273</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age &gt; 15</td>
<td>22,412</td>
<td>20,147</td>
<td>2,144</td>
<td>121</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of curative consultations (total)</td>
<td>893,412</td>
<td>725,796</td>
<td>159,263</td>
<td>8,353</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age 0–5</td>
<td>246,733</td>
<td>214,840</td>
<td>30,002</td>
<td>1,891</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age 5–15</td>
<td>152,520</td>
<td>121,361</td>
<td>29,312</td>
<td>1,847</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age &gt; 15</td>
<td>494,159</td>
<td>389,595</td>
<td>99,949</td>
<td>4,615</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Of which: number of females attending curative consultations (total)</td>
<td>492,505</td>
<td>407,675</td>
<td>80,246</td>
<td>4,584</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age 0–5</td>
<td>117,805</td>
<td>101,542</td>
<td>15,279</td>
<td>984</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age 5–15</td>
<td>77,262</td>
<td>62,453</td>
<td>13,892</td>
<td>917</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age &gt; 15</td>
<td>297,438</td>
<td>243,680</td>
<td>51,075</td>
<td>2,683</td>
<td>-</td>
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<tr>
<td>Number of health education sessions held (total)</td>
<td>11,970</td>
<td>7,909</td>
<td>3,239</td>
<td>822</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of cases referred from first- to second-line health facilities (total)</td>
<td>8,301</td>
<td>5,375</td>
<td>2,754</td>
<td>172</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age 0–5</td>
<td>1,597</td>
<td>1,262</td>
<td>310</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age 5–15</td>
<td>1,062</td>
<td>573</td>
<td>441</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age &gt; 15</td>
<td>5,642</td>
<td>3,540</td>
<td>2,003</td>
<td>99</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Of which: number of gynaecological/obstetric cases referred (total)</td>
<td>2,297</td>
<td>1,621</td>
<td>655</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age &lt; 15</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age &gt; 15</td>
<td>2,274</td>
<td>1,602</td>
<td>654</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

¹. Iraq – The ICRC, together with the Iraqi health authorities, identified structures with acute needs, and supplied them with surgical equipment and medical supplies, to the total value of over CHF 450,000.

Israel and the Occupied and Autonomous Territories – Financial and material support was provided to the Magen David Adom for its emergency medical service and blood transfusion service. Financial and material assistance was provided to the Palestine Red Crescent Society in support of primary health care centres, the central medical store, emergency medical technicians and the ambulance fleet.
### Hospital Support

#### Hospitals supported

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>World</th>
<th>Africa</th>
<th>Asia &amp; the Pacific</th>
<th>Europe &amp; the Americas</th>
<th>Middle East &amp; North Africa</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of hospitals supported</td>
<td>193</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monthly average of hospitals supported</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>4</td>
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#### Activities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activities</th>
<th>World</th>
<th>Africa</th>
<th>Asia &amp; the Pacific</th>
<th>Europe &amp; the Americas</th>
<th>Middle East &amp; North Africa</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of weapon-wounded admitted (total)</td>
<td>9,977</td>
<td>5,175</td>
<td>3,987</td>
<td>262</td>
<td>553</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women</td>
<td>1,084</td>
<td>545</td>
<td>523</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Men</td>
<td>8,069</td>
<td>4,314</td>
<td>2,960</td>
<td>242</td>
<td>553</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Girls &lt; 15 years</td>
<td>241</td>
<td>103</td>
<td>138</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boys &lt; 15 years</td>
<td>583</td>
<td>213</td>
<td>366</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>-</td>
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<tr>
<td>Of which: number of mine victims admitted (total)</td>
<td>562</td>
<td>172</td>
<td>344</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Men</td>
<td>447</td>
<td>154</td>
<td>254</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Girls &lt; 15 years</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boys &lt; 15 years</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of non-weapon-wounded, surgical cases admitted</td>
<td>67,114</td>
<td>18,484</td>
<td>26,707</td>
<td>21,923</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women</td>
<td>19,183</td>
<td>7,263</td>
<td>5,441</td>
<td>6,479</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Men</td>
<td>31,149</td>
<td>7,447</td>
<td>15,611</td>
<td>8,091</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Girls &lt; 15 years</td>
<td>6,309</td>
<td>1,477</td>
<td>1,859</td>
<td>2,973</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boys &lt; 15 years</td>
<td>10,473</td>
<td>2,297</td>
<td>3,796</td>
<td>4,380</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of operations performed</td>
<td>65,290</td>
<td>23,870</td>
<td>21,608</td>
<td>19,812</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of medical patients admitted (total)</td>
<td>85,534</td>
<td>33,526</td>
<td>29,755</td>
<td>22,253</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women</td>
<td>30,132</td>
<td>14,882</td>
<td>10,304</td>
<td>4,946</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Men</td>
<td>26,815</td>
<td>12,203</td>
<td>9,916</td>
<td>4,696</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Girls &lt; 15 years</td>
<td>13,432</td>
<td>3,235</td>
<td>4,238</td>
<td>5,959</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boys &lt; 15 years</td>
<td>15,155</td>
<td>3,206</td>
<td>5,297</td>
<td>6,652</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of outpatients treated (total)</td>
<td>482,783</td>
<td>347,282</td>
<td>134,892</td>
<td>609</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women</td>
<td>153,392</td>
<td>122,584</td>
<td>30,708</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Men</td>
<td>144,647</td>
<td>89,067</td>
<td>55,286</td>
<td>294</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Girls &lt; 15 years</td>
<td>93,944</td>
<td>73,701</td>
<td>20,194</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boys &lt; 15 years</td>
<td>90,800</td>
<td>61,930</td>
<td>28,704</td>
<td>166</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inpatient gynaecological/obstetric (total)</td>
<td>54,932</td>
<td>28,276</td>
<td>3,009</td>
<td>23,647</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of paediatric patients admitted (total)</td>
<td>94,480</td>
<td>61,572</td>
<td>15,142</td>
<td>17,766</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children &lt; 5 years</td>
<td>66,500</td>
<td>50,476</td>
<td>6,066</td>
<td>9,958</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Girls 5–15 years</td>
<td>14,099</td>
<td>6,389</td>
<td>4,071</td>
<td>3,639</td>
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<tr>
<td>Boys 5–15 years</td>
<td>13,881</td>
<td>4,707</td>
<td>5,005</td>
<td>4,169</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. Iraq – The ICRC, together with the Iraqi health authorities, identified structures with acute needs, and supplied them with surgical equipment and medical supplies, to the total value of over CHF 450,000.

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### First-aid posts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>WORLD</th>
<th>AFRICA</th>
<th>ASIA &amp; THE PACIFIC</th>
<th>EUROPE &amp; THE AMERICAS</th>
<th>MIDDLE EAST &amp; NORTH AFRICA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Number of wounded treated in the first-aid posts (total)</strong></td>
<td>8,703</td>
<td>8,703</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women</td>
<td>1,578</td>
<td>1,578</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Men</td>
<td>4,475</td>
<td>4,475</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Girls &lt; 15 years</td>
<td>1,237</td>
<td>1,237</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boys &lt; 15 years</td>
<td>1,413</td>
<td>1,413</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### First-aid posts supported

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>WORLD</th>
<th>AFRICA</th>
<th>ASIA &amp; THE PACIFIC</th>
<th>EUROPE &amp; THE AMERICAS</th>
<th>MIDDLE EAST &amp; NORTH AFRICA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Number of first-aid posts supported</strong></td>
<td>28</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monthly average of first-aid posts supported</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>-</td>
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### PHYSICAL REHABILITATION

#### Activities

<table>
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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>WORLD</th>
<th>AFRICA</th>
<th>ASIA &amp; THE PACIFIC</th>
<th>EUROPE &amp; THE AMERICAS</th>
<th>MIDDLE EAST &amp; NORTH AFRICA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Number of physical rehabilitation centres supported (total)</strong></td>
<td>77</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Number of patients receiving services at the centres (total)</strong></td>
<td>141,961</td>
<td>20,291</td>
<td>80,996</td>
<td>13,016</td>
<td>27,658</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women</td>
<td>22,839</td>
<td>4,265</td>
<td>11,733</td>
<td>1,931</td>
<td>4,910</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Men</td>
<td>88,779</td>
<td>11,798</td>
<td>53,838</td>
<td>7,381</td>
<td>15,762</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Girls &lt; 15 years</td>
<td>12,627</td>
<td>1,882</td>
<td>5,816</td>
<td>1,939</td>
<td>2,990</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boys &lt; 15 years</td>
<td>17,716</td>
<td>2,346</td>
<td>9,609</td>
<td>1,765</td>
<td>3,996</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Number of amputees receiving services at the centres (total)</strong></td>
<td>62,238</td>
<td>8,399</td>
<td>31,977</td>
<td>6,915</td>
<td>14,947</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women</td>
<td>6,958</td>
<td>1,390</td>
<td>2,377</td>
<td>875</td>
<td>2,316</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Men</td>
<td>52,067</td>
<td>6,449</td>
<td>28,724</td>
<td>5,658</td>
<td>11,236</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Girls &lt; 15 years</td>
<td>1,250</td>
<td>108</td>
<td>553</td>
<td>204</td>
<td>891</td>
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<td>Boys &lt; 15 years</td>
<td>1,963</td>
<td>315</td>
<td>323</td>
<td>178</td>
<td>504</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Number of new patients fitted with prostheses (new to the ICRC) (total)</strong></td>
<td>10,064</td>
<td>3,154</td>
<td>4,394</td>
<td>381</td>
<td>2,135</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women</td>
<td>1,457</td>
<td>467</td>
<td>571</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>355</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Men</td>
<td>7,915</td>
<td>2,495</td>
<td>3,617</td>
<td>297</td>
<td>1,506</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Girls &lt; 15 years</td>
<td>269</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>97</td>
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<tr>
<td>Boys &lt; 15 years</td>
<td>423</td>
<td>108</td>
<td>128</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>177</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Number of prostheses delivered (total)</strong></td>
<td>21,849</td>
<td>5,402</td>
<td>11,491</td>
<td>1,745</td>
<td>3,211</td>
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<tr>
<td>Women</td>
<td>2,687</td>
<td>845</td>
<td>1,089</td>
<td>207</td>
<td>546</td>
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<tr>
<td>Men</td>
<td>17,766</td>
<td>4,011</td>
<td>9,954</td>
<td>1,470</td>
<td>2,331</td>
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<tr>
<td>Girls &lt; 15 years</td>
<td>660</td>
<td>338</td>
<td>179</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>117</td>
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<tr>
<td>Boys &lt; 15 years</td>
<td>736</td>
<td>208</td>
<td>269</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>217</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Of which: number of prostheses delivered to mine victims (total)</strong></td>
<td>10,210</td>
<td>1,954</td>
<td>6,821</td>
<td>354</td>
<td>1,081</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women</td>
<td>668</td>
<td>230</td>
<td>305</td>
<td>32</td>
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<tr>
<td>Men</td>
<td>9,150</td>
<td>1,627</td>
<td>6,418</td>
<td>297</td>
<td>916</td>
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<td>Girls &lt; 15 years</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>24</td>
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<tr>
<td>Boys &lt; 15 years</td>
<td>167</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Number of non-amputees receiving services at the centres (total)</strong></td>
<td>79,723</td>
<td>11,892</td>
<td>49,019</td>
<td>6,101</td>
<td>12,711</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women</td>
<td>15,902</td>
<td>2,874</td>
<td>9,347</td>
<td>1,055</td>
<td>2,626</td>
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<tr>
<td>Men</td>
<td>36,658</td>
<td>5,349</td>
<td>25,110</td>
<td>1,647</td>
<td>4,552</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Girls &lt; 15 years</td>
<td>11,327</td>
<td>1,637</td>
<td>5,496</td>
<td>1,742</td>
<td>2,452</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boys &lt; 15 years</td>
<td>15,836</td>
<td>2,032</td>
<td>9,066</td>
<td>1,857</td>
<td>3,081</td>
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### ASSISTANCE FIGURES AND INDICATORS

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<th>EUROPE &amp; THE AMERICAS</th>
<th>MIDDLE EAST &amp; NORTH AFRICA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of new patients fitted with orthoses (new to the ICRC) (total)</td>
<td>18,384</td>
<td>3,759</td>
<td>7,300</td>
<td>794</td>
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<tr>
<td>Women</td>
<td>3,933</td>
<td>1,025</td>
<td>1,685</td>
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<tr>
<td>Men</td>
<td>6,581</td>
<td>1,598</td>
<td>3,032</td>
<td>79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Girls &lt; 15 years</td>
<td>3,311</td>
<td>451</td>
<td>983</td>
<td>283</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boys &lt; 15 years</td>
<td>4,559</td>
<td>685</td>
<td>1,600</td>
<td>338</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of orthoses delivered (total)</td>
<td>29,360</td>
<td>5,370</td>
<td>13,378</td>
<td>2,327</td>
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<tr>
<td>Women</td>
<td>5,320</td>
<td>1,275</td>
<td>2,329</td>
<td>210</td>
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<tr>
<td>Men</td>
<td>9,636</td>
<td>2,113</td>
<td>4,835</td>
<td>272</td>
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<tr>
<td>Girls &lt; 15 years</td>
<td>6,067</td>
<td>931</td>
<td>2,255</td>
<td>906</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boys &lt; 15 years</td>
<td>8,337</td>
<td>1,051</td>
<td>3,959</td>
<td>939</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Of which: number of orthoses delivered to mine victims (total)</td>
<td>343</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>125</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Men</td>
<td>259</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>111</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Girls &lt; 15 years</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boys &lt; 15 years</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crutches and sticks delivered (total pieces)</td>
<td>38,224</td>
<td>15,522</td>
<td>18,434</td>
<td>3,281</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women</td>
<td>5,176</td>
<td>2,595</td>
<td>1,948</td>
<td>456</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Men</td>
<td>28,368</td>
<td>10,046</td>
<td>14,998</td>
<td>2,591</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Girls &lt; 15 years</td>
<td>2,379</td>
<td>1,793</td>
<td>469</td>
<td>91</td>
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<tr>
<td>Boys &lt; 15 years</td>
<td>2,301</td>
<td>1,088</td>
<td>1,019</td>
<td>143</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wheelchairs delivered (total)</td>
<td>3,031</td>
<td>431</td>
<td>1,723</td>
<td>863</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women</td>
<td>648</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>440</td>
<td>153</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Men</td>
<td>1,811</td>
<td>301</td>
<td>937</td>
<td>562</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Girls &lt; 15 years</td>
<td>210</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>117</td>
<td>68</td>
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<tr>
<td>Boys &lt; 15 years</td>
<td>362</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>229</td>
<td>80</td>
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<tr>
<td>Components delivered to non-ICRC projects</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Artificial knees</td>
<td>1,305</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1,305</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alignment systems</td>
<td>3,765</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>3,765</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orthotic knee joints (pairs)</td>
<td>1,083</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1,083</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### ASSISTANCE FIGURES AND INDICATORS – EXPLANATIONS

- **Women**: Females aged 15 and over.
- **Men**: Males aged 15 and over.
- **Girls**: Females aged 14 and under.
- **Boys**: Males aged 14 and under.

### ECONOMIC SECURITY PROGRAMMES

**Beneficiaries**
One beneficiary = one person who has been assisted at least once over the course of the year. A person who has been assisted several times is counted only once.

**Civilians (residents, returnees, etc.)**
This population group includes residents, returnees and internally displaced people who cannot be clearly identified as such – for example, those living with friends or relatives.

In general these are people living in rural areas and/or areas which are difficult to reach owing to insecurity and/or lack of infrastructure.

**Internally displaced people**
This population group includes only internally displaced people clearly identified as such – for example, those staying in camps.
Essential household items
Per population group, the number of beneficiaries who have been assisted with one or more essential household commodity over the course of the year. The main commodities distributed in 2006 were tarpaulins, blankets, kitchen sets, hygiene kits, soaps, jerry-cans and mosquito nets.

Food
Per population group, the number of beneficiaries who have been assisted with one or more food commodity over the course of the year. The main commodities distributed in 2006 were rice, wheat flour, maize, beans and oil.

Agricultural and veterinary inputs and micro-economic initiatives
Per population group, the number of beneficiaries who have been assisted with one or more agricultural/veterinary input (e.g. fertilizers, animal vaccines, seeds, tools), micro-economic projects (e.g. carpentry, welding, food processing, trade) or cash over the course of the year.

NB. Figures for food, essential household items and agricultural/veterinary and micro-economic initiatives cannot be cumulated as some groups benefited from two or three types of aid.

Water supply schemes and sanitation systems for all population groups
This comprises the following types of projects: wells, boreholes, springs, dams and water treatment plants built or repaired; latrines, septic tanks and sewage plants built or repaired; and vector control activities.

Habitat structures for civilians and internally displaced people
Comprises the following types of projects: temporary settlements (shelter), site planning and support for in-house rehabilitation.

Habitat structures for detainees
Comprises the following types of projects: prisons or detention centres rehabilitated, especially kitchen facilities.

Habitat structures for wounded and sick
Comprises the following types of projects: hospitals, health centres and physical rehabilitation centres built or repaired.

HEALTH SERVICES

Community health/basic health care – residents and the displaced
Monthly average of health centres supported
The number of first-line health facilities supported on average, per month, during the year.

Number of health centres supported
The total number of health centres regularly supported in 2006.

Activities
Beneficiaries are registered according to the service they receive (ante- and postnatal consultation, immunization, curative consultation).

Number of immunization activities
The number of doses administered during the year.

Number of polio immunizations
Included in the total number of immunization activities.

Hospital support – wounded and sick
Monthly average of hospitals supported
The number of second-line health facilities supported on average, per month, during the year.

Number of hospitals supported
Total number of hospitals regularly supported in 2006.

Activities
Patients admitted: beneficiaries are registered according to the service they receive (surgical, medical, gynaecological/obstetric, paediatric).

Outpatients treated: total number of outpatients treated without distinguishing between diagnoses.
Number of mine victims admitted
Included in the total number of weapon-wounded admitted.

Number of operations performed
The number of operations performed on weapon-wounded and non-weapon-wounded patients.

PHYSICAL REHABILITATION PROGRAMMES

Number of patients receiving services at the centres
All patients, amputees and non-amputees, who received services at the centres during the year – both new and former patients who came for new devices, repairs, physiotherapy, etc.

Number of amputees receiving services at the centres
All amputees who received services at the centres during the year – both new and former amputee patients who came for new devices, repairs (prostheses, wheelchairs, walking aids) or for physiotherapy.

Number of new patients fitted with prostheses (new to the ICRC)
All new patients who received prostheses within the year – both those fitted for the first time and patients who had previously received prostheses from a centre not assisted by the ICRC.

Total number of prostheses delivered
The total number of prostheses delivered during the year.

Number of prostheses delivered to mine victims
The total number of prostheses delivered specifically for victims of mines and explosive devices during the year.

Number of non-amputees receiving services at the centres
All non-amputees who received services at the centres during the year – both new and former non-amputee patients who came for new devices, repairs (orthoses, wheelchairs, walking aids) or for physiotherapy.

Number of new patients fitted with orthoses (new to the ICRC)
All new patients who received orthoses within the year – both those for the first time and patients who had previously received orthoses from a centre not assisted by the ICRC.

Total number of orthoses delivered
The total number of orthoses delivered within the year.

Number of orthoses delivered to mine victims
The total number of orthoses delivered specifically for victims of mines and explosive devices during the year.

Crutches and sticks delivered (pieces)
The total number of crutches and sticks (pieces, not pairs) delivered during the year.

Wheelchairs delivered
The total number of wheelchairs delivered during the year.

Components delivered to non-ICRC projects
Exclusively for Afghanistan and Cambodia where the ICRC continues to manufacture components that are given to other organizations.
The 2006 financial exercise has been shaped by the legacy of 2005, when two major natural disasters, which occurred in late 2004 (the tsunami that struck coastal areas in South and South-East Asia) and early October 2005 (the earthquake in Pakistan), stretched the ICRC in meeting the immense and unexpected humanitarian needs that ensued. Consequently, the operational ambitions expressed in the Emergency Appeals 2006 resulted from the experiences of 2005 and, accordingly, gave rise to a uniquely large initial budget. The short war that occurred in July between Israel and Lebanon led to the most significant budget extension, financially speaking, although the Sudan operation remained the biggest in terms of overall financial size. At the same time, the ICRC maintained its humanitarian response in other conflict-affected areas, such as Somalia, Iraq, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the northern Caucasus, Sri Lanka, Afghanistan, Israel and the Occupied and Autonomous Territories, and Liberia, to name the most significant. Nevertheless, and for the first time since 2000, the ICRC had to mitigate the financial risks related to the funding of its operations. On the basis of several financial forecasts, the Directorate required that cost-cutting adjustments be made, for both field operations and headquarters, in order to limit the forecast consolidated deficit to a manageable level. The 2006 consolidated statement of income and expenditure shows a loss of KCHF -8,987 for the year.

EMERGENCY APPEALS

The initial budget of KCHF 895,309 increased by KCHF 144,342 (16%) as a result of the budget extensions relating to Lebanon, Israel and the Occupied and Autonomous Territories, Sri Lanka, Somalia, Suva (regional), and Yaoundé (regional). The Lebanon budget extension accounted for 69% of the total budget extensions and was 58 times the initial budget for Lebanon.

Total field expenditure amounted to KCHF 864,356, compared with KCHF 811,121 for 2005, representing an 86% implementation rate. As a proportion of the total expenditure, the main operations were those in Sudan (KCHF 121,993; 14.1%), Pakistan (KCHF 52,545; 6.1%), Israel, the Occupied and Autonomous Territories (KCHF 49,533; 5.7%), Somalia (KCHF 49,119; 5.7%), Lebanon (KCHF 48,133; 5.6%), Iraq (KCHF 42,299; 4.9%), Afghanistan (KCHF 40,794; 4.7%), the Democratic Republic of the Congo (KCHF 32,522; 3.8%), Moscow regional (KCHF 30,136; 3.5%) and Sri Lanka (KCHF 26,082; 3.0%). Contributions to the field budget reached KCHF 816,626.

HEADQUARTERS APPEAL

Despite increased resources being drawn from headquarters to support the ICRC’s field operations, especially with the Lebanon crisis, headquarters expenditure remained below the budgeted KCHF 153,889, at KCHF 151,502, representing a 98% implementation rate. This was largely due to careful management of the headcount at headquarters.

STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

After consolidation of the operational results of field and headquarters financial structures, those of the Omar El Muktar and Clare R. Benedict funds, and the Foundation for the International Committee of the Red Cross, there is an overall deficit for operating activities of KCHF -20,275, compared with a surplus of KCHF 48,921 in 2005. To that figure a net surplus of KCHF 11,288, compared with KCHF 23,938 in 2005, arising from non-operational results, must be added, making a deficit of KCHF -8,987 before movement on reserves (KCHF 72,859 in 2005). The net result of each field operation is restricted to that operation either as a temporary deficit or as donor-restricted (earmarked) contributions. Those restricted results are therefore not available for the unrestricted reserves. The sum of temporary deficits of operations increased by KCHF -21,733 to reach KCHF -59,671, compared with KCHF -37,938 in 2005. Donor-restricted (earmarked) contributions to operations decreased by KCHF 23,557 to reach KCHF 37,545, compared with KCHF 61,102 the previous year. The widening gap between operations with surplus funding and those with deficit funding is a matter of concern for management as it limits the financial flexibility of the ICRC.

BALANCE SHEET

The main driver behind the changes in the balance sheet between 2005 and 2006 is the increase in long-term donor commitments. This highly valued support has a significant impact on both the asset and liability sides of the balance sheet. In 2006, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (DFID) confirmed a four-year pledge which accounts for most of the difference of KCHF 150,828 of the “Accounts receivable and prepayments”, as well as for the liability side through the “Accrued expenses and deferred income” and the “Deferred income”. Unrestricted reserves increased by KCHF 34,664 to enable the ICRC to deal with its future risks and commitments.
1. Consolidated Balance Sheet
2. Consolidated Statement of Income and Expenditure
3. Consolidated Cash Flow Statement
4. Consolidated Statement of Changes in Reserves
5. Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements

5.1 Activities
5.2 Significant Accounting Policies
   1. Statement of compliance
   2. Basis of preparation
   3. Basis of consolidation
   4. Foreign currency transactions
   5. Fair value
   6. Financial risk management
   7. Cash and cash equivalents
   8. Securities
   9. Accounts receivable
   10. Inventories
   11. Property, equipment and intangibles
   12. Impairment
   14. Interest-bearing borrowings and loans
   15. Reserves
   16. Income
   17. Financial income and expenditure
   18. Employee benefits
   19. Expenditure
   20. Contingent assets
   21. Contingent liabilities

5.3 Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements
   1. Cash and cash equivalents
   2. Securities
   3. Accounts receivable and prepayments
   4. Inventories
   5. Property, equipment and intangibles
   6. Other assets
   7. Accounts payable
   8. Financial liabilities
   10. Employee benefits
   11. Accrued expenses and deferred income
   12. Funds and foundations
   13. Funding of field operations
   14. Reserves designated by the Assembly
   15. Contributions
   16. Operating expenditure by cash, kind and services
   17. Headquarters overhead income, field overhead expenditure and administrative costs
   18. Staff-related costs and figures
   19. Leases
   20. Financial income and expense
   21. Other income and other expenditure
   22. Taxes
   23. Financial risk management
   24. Contingent assets
   25. Contingent liabilities
   26. Capital and contractual commitments
   27. Related parties
   28. Subsequent events
### 1. CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2006
(in KCHF)

#### ASSETS

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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Current Assets</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash and cash equivalents</td>
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<tr>
<td>Securities</td>
<td>5.3.2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Inventories</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Current Assets</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Non-current Assets</td>
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<td>Property and equipment</td>
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<td>Intangible assets</td>
<td>5.3.5</td>
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<td>Other assets</td>
<td>5.3.6</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Non-current Assets</strong></td>
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<td>98,513</td>
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<td><strong>Total ASSETS</strong></td>
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#### LIABILITIES AND RESERVES

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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current Liabilities</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accounts payable</td>
<td>5.3.7</td>
<td>43,322</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financial liabilities</td>
<td>5.3.8</td>
<td>1,034</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provisions</td>
<td>5.3.9</td>
<td>642</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employee benefit liabilities</td>
<td>5.3.10</td>
<td>58,716</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accrued expenses and deferred income</td>
<td>5.3.11</td>
<td>113,497</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Current Liabilities</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>217,211</td>
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<tr>
<td>Non-current Liabilities</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Financial liabilities</td>
<td>5.3.8</td>
<td>18,908</td>
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<tr>
<td>Employee benefit liabilities</td>
<td>5.3.10</td>
<td>4,833</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deferred income</td>
<td>5.3.11</td>
<td>120,565</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Non-current Liabilities</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>144,306</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total LIABILITIES</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>361,517</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Restricted Reserves

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Notes</th>
<th>2006</th>
<th>2005</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Funds and Foundations</td>
<td></td>
<td>15,785</td>
</tr>
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</table>

#### Funding of Operations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Notes</th>
<th>2006</th>
<th>2005</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Field operations with temporary deficit financing</td>
<td>5.3.13</td>
<td>-59,692</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donor-restricted contributions</td>
<td></td>
<td>37,716</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Funding of Operations</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>-21,976</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Restricted Reserves</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>-6,191</td>
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</table>

#### Unrestricted Reserves

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Notes</th>
<th>2006</th>
<th>2005</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reserves designated by the Assembly</td>
<td>5.3.14</td>
<td>169,990</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Future operations</td>
<td></td>
<td>27,036</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operational risks</td>
<td></td>
<td>129,968</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assets replacement</td>
<td></td>
<td>15,294</td>
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<tr>
<td>Financial risks</td>
<td></td>
<td>11,205</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Human resources</td>
<td></td>
<td>2,140</td>
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<tr>
<td>Specific projects</td>
<td></td>
<td>355,633</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Designated Reserves</strong></td>
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<td>355,633</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Unrestricted Reserves</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General reserve</td>
<td></td>
<td>12,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retained surplus at beginning of year</td>
<td></td>
<td>1,900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Other Unrestricted Reserves</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>14,400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Unrestricted Reserves</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>370,033</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total RESERVES</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>363,842</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total LIABILITIES and RESERVES</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>725,359</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## 2. CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2006
(in KCHF)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Notes</th>
<th>2006</th>
<th>2005</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total CONTRIBUTIONS</td>
<td>5.3.15</td>
<td>943,849</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OPERATING EXPENDITURE</td>
<td>5.3.16</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staff-related costs</td>
<td>5.3.10/18</td>
<td>-465,379</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mission costs</td>
<td></td>
<td>-52,114</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rentals</td>
<td></td>
<td>-106,321</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subcontracted maintenance</td>
<td></td>
<td>-24,594</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Purchase of goods and materials</td>
<td>5.3.20</td>
<td>-220,985</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General expenditure</td>
<td>5.3.20</td>
<td>-75,217</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Depreciation</td>
<td></td>
<td>-19,514</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total OPERATING EXPENDITURE</td>
<td></td>
<td>-964,124</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NET RESULT OF OPERATING ACTIVITIES</td>
<td>2006</td>
<td>-20,275</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OTHER INCOME</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contributed assets</td>
<td></td>
<td>80</td>
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<tr>
<td>Financial income</td>
<td>5.3.20</td>
<td>6,290</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foreign exchange gain, net</td>
<td>5.3.20</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>5.3.21</td>
<td>16,882</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total OTHER INCOME</td>
<td></td>
<td>23,261</td>
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<tr>
<td>OTHER EXPENDITURE</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foreign exchange loss, net</td>
<td>5.3.20</td>
<td>-8,828</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Impairment of assets</td>
<td>5.3.5</td>
<td>-21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>5.3.21</td>
<td>-3,124</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total OTHER EXPENDITURE</td>
<td></td>
<td>-11,973</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NET RESULT OF NON-OPERATING ACTIVITIES</td>
<td>2006</td>
<td>11,288</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RESULT FOR THE YEAR</td>
<td></td>
<td>-8,987</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ALLOCATION OF RESULT FOR THE YEAR</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Allocation to reserves net</td>
<td>Table 4</td>
<td>10,310</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Allocation to funds and foundations</td>
<td>Table 4</td>
<td>-1,323</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RESULT FOR THE YEAR AFTER ALLOCATIONS</td>
<td>2006</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## CONSOLIDATED CASH FLOW STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2006
(in KCHF)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Notes</th>
<th>2006</th>
<th>2005</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Cash Flows from Operating Activities</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net result before interest</td>
<td>-13,392</td>
<td>69,823</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adjustments for:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Depreciation and impairment on assets</td>
<td>21,242</td>
<td>19,853</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Decrease in current cash and cash equivalent allowances</td>
<td>584</td>
<td>-335</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gain on securities, net</td>
<td>5.3.20</td>
<td>-1,541</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gain from disposal of fixed assets, net</td>
<td>-3,020</td>
<td>-3,301</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contributed assets (gifted)</td>
<td>-40</td>
<td>-1,771</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increase of employee benefit liabilities</td>
<td>7,579</td>
<td>14,256</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Operating surplus before changes in working capital</strong></td>
<td>11,412</td>
<td>94,553</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Changes in working capital:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accounts receivable and prepayments</td>
<td>-152,694</td>
<td>-91,643</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inventories</td>
<td>-3,343</td>
<td>-319</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other assets</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>-443</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accounts payable and accrued expenses</td>
<td>152,575</td>
<td>78,657</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employee benefit liabilities</td>
<td>-8,521</td>
<td>-5,336</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Net Cash from Operating Activities</strong></td>
<td>-557</td>
<td>75,469</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Cash Flows from Investing Activities</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acquisition of fixed assets</td>
<td>-25,484</td>
<td>-23,305</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Purchase of securities</td>
<td>-22,724</td>
<td>-18,328</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proceeds from disposal of fixed assets</td>
<td>4,700</td>
<td>4,213</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proceeds from sale of securities</td>
<td>22,347</td>
<td>15,870</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest received</td>
<td>5.3.20</td>
<td>3,622</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Securities’ income, net</td>
<td>1,136</td>
<td>1,380</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Net Cash Used in Investing Activities</strong></td>
<td>-16,403</td>
<td>-18,154</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Cash Flows from Financing Activities</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest paid</td>
<td>-353</td>
<td>-360</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Repayment unsecured loan and lease obligation</td>
<td>5.3.8</td>
<td>-579</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increase of interest-bearing loan</td>
<td>5.3.8</td>
<td>2,900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Net Cash from Financing Activities</strong></td>
<td>1,968</td>
<td>-1,130</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>NET INCREASE IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS</strong></td>
<td>-14,992</td>
<td>56,185</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Cash and cash equivalents at 1 January</strong></td>
<td>241,508</td>
<td>179,402</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Effect of foreign exchange rate changes</strong></td>
<td>-1,270</td>
<td>4,651</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Cash and cash equivalents at 31 December</strong></td>
<td>5.3.1</td>
<td>225,246</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### RECONCILIATION OF RESULT FOR THE YEAR TO NET RESULT BEFORE INTEREST

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Notes</th>
<th>2006</th>
<th>2005</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Result for the year</td>
<td>-8,987</td>
<td>72,859</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest income</td>
<td>5.3.20</td>
<td>-3,622</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Securities interest income</td>
<td>5.3.20</td>
<td>-1,136</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mortgage and leasing expense</td>
<td>5.3.20</td>
<td>353</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Net Result Before Interest</strong></td>
<td>-13,392</td>
<td>69,823</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### 4. CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN RESERVES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2006 (in KCHF)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Notes</th>
<th>Restricted Funds and foundations</th>
<th>Funding of operations</th>
<th>Unrestricted Designated by the Assembly</th>
<th>Other unrestricted reserves</th>
<th>Result for the year</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Balance at 31 December 2004</td>
<td>11,987</td>
<td>-1,423</td>
<td>275,006</td>
<td>14,400</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>299,970</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net result for the year</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>72,859</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balance before transfers to/(from) reserves</td>
<td>11,987</td>
<td>-1,423</td>
<td>275,006</td>
<td>14,400</td>
<td>72,859</td>
<td>372,829</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Allocation of results of funds and foundations</td>
<td>2,475</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>-2,475</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Decrease of field operations with temporary deficit financing</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>-29,458</td>
<td></td>
<td>29,458</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increase in donor-restricted contributions for specific operations</td>
<td></td>
<td>53,879</td>
<td></td>
<td>-53,879</td>
<td>-</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Use of reserves designated by the Assembly</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>-3,667</td>
<td></td>
<td>3,667</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Allocation to reserves designated by the Assembly</td>
<td></td>
<td>49,630</td>
<td></td>
<td>-49,630</td>
<td>-</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total movement, net</td>
<td>2,475</td>
<td>24,421</td>
<td>45,963</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-72,859</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balance at 31 December 2005</td>
<td>14,462</td>
<td>22,998</td>
<td>320,969</td>
<td>14,400</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>372,829</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net result for the year</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>-8,987</td>
<td>-8,987</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balance before transfers to/(from) reserves</td>
<td>14,462</td>
<td>22,998</td>
<td>320,969</td>
<td>14,400</td>
<td>-8,987</td>
<td>363,842</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Allocation of results of funds and foundations</td>
<td>1,323</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>-1,323</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increase of field operations with temporary deficit financing</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>-20,747</td>
<td></td>
<td>20,747</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Decrease in donor-restricted contributions for specific operations</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>-24,227</td>
<td></td>
<td>24,227</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Use of reserves designated by the Assembly</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>-10,648</td>
<td></td>
<td>10,648</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Allocation to reserves designated by the Assembly</td>
<td></td>
<td>45,312</td>
<td></td>
<td>-45,312</td>
<td>-</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total movement, net</td>
<td>1,323</td>
<td>-44,974</td>
<td>34,664</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>8,987</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balance at 31 December 2006</td>
<td>15,785</td>
<td>-21,976</td>
<td>355,633</td>
<td>14,400</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>363,842</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
5. NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2006 (in KCHF)

5.1 ACTIVITIES

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) is an impartial, neutral and independent organization whose exclusively humanitarian mission is to protect the lives and dignity of victims of war and internal violence and to provide them with assistance.

It directs and coordinates the international relief activities conducted by the Movement in situations of conflict. It also endeavours to prevent suffering by promoting and strengthening humanitarian law and universal humanitarian principles.

Established in 1863, the ICRC is at the origin of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. It is formally recognized in the Geneva Conventions and by the International Conferences of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. The ICRC is an independent humanitarian non-profit organization, domiciled in Switzerland and was granted observer status at the United Nations in October 1990.

The ICRC’s principal tasks include:
- visits to prisoners of war and civilian detainees;
- the search for missing persons;
- transmission of messages between family members separated by conflict;
- reunification of dispersed families;
- provision of food, water and medical assistance to civilians without access to these basic necessities;
- spreading knowledge of humanitarian law;
- monitoring compliance with that law;
- drawing attention to violations and contributing to the development of humanitarian law;
- enhancing the capacity of National Societies to fulfil their own responsibilities as Red Cross and Red Crescent institutions providing humanitarian services in their own countries.

These consolidated financial statements of the ICRC for the year ended 31 December 2006 include activities of the Geneva headquarters, all ICRC delegations, two funds and one foundation.

The consolidated financial statements were approved by the board of directors on 3 April 2007 for issue to the Assembly Council on 5 April 2007 and for approval by the Assembly on 26 April 2007.

5.2 SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

5.2.1 Statement of compliance

The consolidated financial statements have been prepared in accordance with and comply with the International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) as adopted by the International Accounting Standards Board (IASB), and interpretations issued by the Standing Interpretations Committee (SIC) of the IASB, and are presented in accordance with the statutes of the ICRC and Swiss law.

Currently, IFRS do not contain specific guidelines for non-profit organizations and non-governmental organizations concerning the accounting treatment and the presentation of the consolidated financial statements. Where IFRS is silent or does not give guidance on how to treat transactions specific to the not-for-profit sector, accounting policies have been based on the general principles of IFRS, as detailed in the IASB Framework for the Preparation and Presentation of Financial Statements.

The accounting policies have been applied consistently by the ICRC and are consistent with those used in previous years.

5.2.2 Basis of preparation

The consolidated financial statements are presented in Swiss francs, rounded to the nearest thousand.

They are prepared on the historical cost convention except that financial securities and derivative financial instruments are stated at their fair value.

Fair value is the amount for which a financial asset, liability or instrument could be exchanged between knowledgeable and willing parties in an arm’s length transaction.

The preparation of the consolidated financial statements requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities, disclosure of contingent liabilities at the date of the consolidated financial statements, and reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. If in the future such estimates and assumptions, which are based on management’s best judgment at the date of the consolidated financial statements, deviate from the actual circumstances, the original estimates and assumptions will be modified as appropriate in the year in which the circumstances change.

The standard will have no impact on ICRC financial statements when implemented in 2007 but will require further disclosures.

5.2.3 Basis of consolidation

SPECIAL FUNDS AND FOUNDATIONS

The funds and foundations listed below are controlled by the ICRC, and their financial statements are included in the consolidated financial statements. Intra-group balances and transactions, and any unrealized gains from such transactions, are eliminated in preparing the consolidated financial statements.

Control exists when the ICRC has the power, directly or indirectly, to govern the financial and operating policies of an entity. The financial statements of the funds and foundations are included in the consolidated financial statements from the date that control commences until the date that control ceases.

 Funds and foundations:
- Foundation for the International Committee of the Red Cross;
- Clare R. Benedict Fund;
- Omar El Mukhtar Fund.

The general purpose of the foundation and funds is to financially assist the ICRC in its humanitarian work.
5.2.4 Foreign currency transactions

Transactions in currencies other than Swiss francs are converted into Swiss francs at rates which approximate the actual rates ruling at the transaction date. At the balance sheet date monetary assets (including securities) and liabilities denominated in foreign currency are converted into Swiss francs at the rate of exchange ruling at that date. Non-monetary assets and liabilities in foreign currencies that are stated at historical cost are translated at the foreign exchange rate at the date of the transaction. Realized and unrealized exchange differences are reported as income and expenditure.

The ICRC’s foreign operations are considered an integral part of the operations in Geneva. The assets and liabilities of those operations are translated into Swiss francs at foreign exchange rates ruling on the balance sheet date, while income and expenditure are translated at rates approximating the foreign exchange rates ruling at the dates of the transactions.

The principal rates of exchange are shown below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Currency</th>
<th>Closing rate of exchange</th>
<th>Average rate of exchange</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>USD</td>
<td>1.2200</td>
<td>1.2374</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EUR</td>
<td>1.6055</td>
<td>1.5475</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GBP</td>
<td>2.3950</td>
<td>2.2576</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

5.2.5 Fair value

The fair value of securities is reported in Note 5.3.2 to the consolidated financial statements. The fair value of cash, other financial assets and accounts payable are not materially different from the carrying amounts.

Fair value estimates are made at a specific point in time, based on market conditions and information about the financial instrument. These estimates are subjective in nature and involve uncertainties and matters of significant judgement and therefore cannot be determined with precision. Changes in assumptions could significantly affect estimates.

5.2.6 Financial risk management

The ICRC uses derivative financial instruments – forward foreign exchange contracts and swaps – to hedge its exposure to foreign exchange risks arising from significant pledged contributions denominated in a currency other than Swiss francs as soon as the balance sheet item is recognized as current income. The forward exchange contracts have maturities of less than one year after the balance sheet date. Where necessary the contracts are swapped at maturity. Neither cash-flow nor fair value hedge accounting has been applied in 2006.

With respect to other monetary assets and liabilities held in currencies other than Swiss francs, the ICRC ensures that the net exposure is kept to an acceptable level, by buying or selling foreign currencies at spot rates where necessary to address short-term needs.

In accordance with its treasury policy, the ICRC does not hold or issue derivative financial instruments for trading purposes.

Derivative financial instruments are stated at fair value. Where a derivative financial instrument is used to hedge economically the foreign exchange exposure of a recognized monetary asset or liability, any gain or loss on the hedging instrument is recognized in the statement of income and expenditure, and consequently hedge accounting does not need to be applied. Further, accounts receivable are not hedged against accounts payable.

The fair value of forward exchange contracts is their market price at the balance sheet date.

5.2.7 Cash and cash equivalents

The ICRC considers cash on hand, amounts due from banks and short-term time deposits with banks to be cash and cash equivalents.

Bank borrowings that are repayable on demand and form an integral part of the ICRC’s cash management are included as a component of cash and cash equivalents for the purpose of the statement of cash flows.

5.2.8 Securities

Securities are recorded as financial assets at fair value through profit and loss, and classified as current assets with any resultant gain or loss recognized in the statement of income and expenditure. Securities are recognized and derecognized by the ICRC at the date it commits to purchase or sell the investments.

The fair value of listed securities is their quoted bid price at the balance sheet date. Financial income consists principally of interest and net realized and unrealized gains on changes in fair value. Interest income is recognized on an accruals basis, taking into account the effective yield of the asset.

As the ICRC’s securities are managed externally on a portfolio basis, all securities income is disclosed net.

5.2.9 Accounts receivable

Receivables are stated at their cost net of an allowance on outstanding amounts to cover the risk on non-payment (see Note 5.3.3).

The main positions of the receivables are recognized for:

- **Pledges**: at the moment of a written confirmation, except pledges falling due after five years which are considered as contingent assets only, and are not recognized owing to uncertainties associated with their receipt. (see Note 5.2.20);
- **Re-invoiced costs**: at the moment when (i) the service or basic expenditure is fulfilled or (ii) the ownership of the asset is transferred.

The allowance is made based upon a specific review of all significant outstanding positions. For those positions not specifically reviewed, the provision is made at differing rates, based upon the age of the receivable and applying allowance rates based on past experience.

5.2.10 Inventories

Inventories held at the headquarters and at the principal regional distribution centre in Nairobi are considered as uncommitted stocks and are recorded at cost. The cost of inventories includes expenditure incurred in acquiring the inventories and bringing them to their existing location and condition. Expenditure is recognized at the moment of the delivery or consumption of these stocks except for obsolete inventories which are written off.
**5.2.11 Property, equipment and intangibles**

Assets are measured at their historical costs and are capitalized when (i) they are used for the ICRC and when (ii) the following limits are reached for individual asset amounts:

- Buildings: all
- Equipment and vehicles: KCHF 10
- Software: KCHF 100 (1)

Contributed assets are accounted for, using the same principles as for purchased assets (see Note 5.2.16).

**SUBSEQUENT EXPENDITURE**

Subsequent expenditure is capitalized only when it increases the future economic benefits embodied in the item of property and equipment.

All other expenditure is recognized in the statement of income and expenditure as an expense as incurred.

**DEPRECIATION**

Depreciation is calculated on the *straight line method* so as to depreciate the initial cost over the estimated useful lives, which are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>in Switzerland</th>
<th>other countries</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Buildings</td>
<td>30 to 50 years</td>
<td>3 to 10 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fixed installations</td>
<td>10 years</td>
<td>10 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Equipment and vehicles</td>
<td>5 – 8 years</td>
<td>5 – 8 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hardware</td>
<td>3 years</td>
<td>3 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Software</td>
<td>5 years</td>
<td>5 years</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Land is not depreciated.

**FINANCE LEASE**

Assets acquired under long-term finance leases are capitalized and depreciated in accordance with the ICRC’s policy on property, equipment and software. The associated obligations are included in financial liabilities.

**5.2.12 Impairment**

The carrying amounts of the ICRC’s assets, other than securities (see Note 5.2.8) and inventories (see Note 5.2.10), are reviewed at each balance sheet date to determine whether there is any indication of impairment. If any indication exists, the asset’s recoverable amount is estimated.

An impairment loss is then recognized whenever the carrying amount of an asset exceeds its recoverable amount. Impairment losses are recognized in the statement of income and expenditure under the caption “Other expenditure”. An impairment loss is reversed if there has been a change in the estimates used to determine the recoverable amount. An impairment loss is only reversed to the extent that the asset’s carrying amount does not exceed the carrying amount that would have been determined, net of depreciation or amortization, if no impairment loss had been recognized.

**5.2.13 Provisions**

A provision is recognized in the balance sheet when the ICRC has a legal or constructive obligation as a result of a past event, and it is probable that an outflow of assets will be required to settle the obligation.

If the effect is material, provisions are determined by discounting the expected future cash flow that reflects current market assessments of the time value of money and, where appropriate, the risks specific to the liability.

**5.2.14 Interest-bearing borrowings and loans**

Interest-bearing borrowings and loans are recognized initially at fair value, less attributable transaction costs.

Subsequent to initial recognition, interest-bearing loans are stated at amortized cost with any difference between cost and redemption value being recognized in the statement of income and expenditure over the period of the loan on an effective interest basis.

**5.2.15 Reserves**

**FUNDING OF FIELD OPERATIONS**

*Field operations with temporary deficit financing*

This position relates to expenditures in the field which have not been financed by contributions received or pledged at 31 December 2006.

**Donor-restricted contributions**

Some contributions received by the ICRC are earmarked for specific usage. At the end of the financial year, any such funds which have not yet been spent are recorded under this heading. In cases where the funds cannot be used, the ICRC either obtains agreement for a reallocation of those funds for a different usage or reimburses them to the donor in which case they are recognized as liability before the effective payment takes place.

**RESERVES DESIGNATED BY THE ASSEMBLY**

*Future operations reserve*

This position contains the reserve for operational funding. The ideal amount of this reserve is estimated at two and a half months of the headquarters and field operational cash, kind and service expenditure over the last five years (see Note 5.3.14).

**Operational risks reserve**

This concerns reserves relating to insurance coverage and to potential litigation issues.

**Assets reserve**

The ICRC sets aside funds for capital expenditure on real estate and equipment, in order to be able to make investments, which are essential for its operations regardless of short-term financial fluctuations.

**Financial risks reserve**

This covers the risks of exchange rate and price fluctuations in securities.
Human resources reserves
This reserve is set aside to cover future payments to management and staff under agreements for early retirements.

Specific projects reserves
Allocations for specific projects to be undertaken are made in anticipation of the events taking place, such as the International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent and studies concerning the red cross emblem.

Other unrestricted reserves
General reserve
This reserve is the accumulation of excess funds of the ICRC that has been set aside with no specific reservation or restriction.

Retained surplus at beginning of year
This reserve is the balance of surplus income from previous years that is not allocated to any specific reserve.

5.2.16 Income
Contributions
Pledges in cash are recognized on receipt of a written confirmation of donation from the donors, except revenue relating to future years which is recorded on the balance sheet as deferred income or as contingent asset if the receivable is greater than five years. (see Note 5.2.20).

Contributions that are based on contracts for specific projects (e.g. European Union, USAID, projects delegated to National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies) are recognized as the expenditure is incurred.

The following contributions are recognized upon receipt of the cash collection:
- private sources, associations and companies;
- legacies;
- gifts.

Contributions in kind (goods or interests) and in services (in the form of staff, means of transport or rent) are recognized on the date of receipt of the goods or service and are reported as equal contributions and expenses in the income and expenditure statement.

Contributions in kind for fixed assets are recorded at fair value under other income, after writing down the donor’s indication of the value of the assets, if required. Depreciation of such assets is included in operational expenditure in the same manner as for purchased fixed assets.

The value of contributions in kind is determined by the donor’s indication of the value of the goods, including the cost of transport to the final destination. The fair value may not be exceeded.

The value of service contributions in 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 directly to the persons concerned or its employer have been deducted to give the value of service recorded.

Earmarking
Cash contributions restricted by donors not other than for general ICRC field operations are considered as non-earmarked.

Cash contributions to a given region, country or programme (worldwide) are seen as loosely earmarked.

Contributions (in cash or in kind) to the programme or sub-programme of a country, project or goods are tightly earmarked.

The table below shows the overall framework for the earmarking level of cash contributions for the field budgets.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level of earmarking</th>
<th>Range/restrictions</th>
<th>Example</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>None</td>
<td>overall ICRC field budget</td>
<td>ICRC operations worldwide</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Region</td>
<td>one of the four regions</td>
<td>ICRC operations in Africa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Programme</td>
<td>one of the four programmes</td>
<td>ICRC prevention activities worldwide</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Programme/region</td>
<td>one of the four programmes for one of the four regions</td>
<td>ICRC protection activities in Asia and the Pacific</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operation</td>
<td>one of the worldwide delegations</td>
<td>ICRC activities in Colombia</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Donor-restricted contributions that exceed specific expenditure within the accounting year are carried forward to the following year (see Note 5.2.15).

In cases where the ICRC meets an overfinancing due to earmarked contributions for a specific operation, the donor is asked if the contribution can be allocated to another operation or be carried forward to the following year. In case of overfinancing, the donor may also ask for a reimbursement of the donation.

5.2.17 Financial income and expenditure
The net financial result comprises interest payable on borrowings, interest receivable on funds invested, securities’ income, foreign exchange gains and losses, and gains and losses on hedging instruments (see Note 5.2.6).

Interest income is recognized in the statement of income and expenditure as it accrues, taking into account the effective yield on the asset.

5.2.18 Employee benefits
For headquarters and expatriated employees, pension obligations are covered by an independent foundation with a defined contribution plan. One-third of the contributions are paid by the employees and two-thirds by the ICRC.

Defined contribution plan
Contributions to the defined contribution pension plan are recognized as an expense in the statement of income and expenditure as incurred.

Early retirement benefits
The ICRC has a plan, which proposes to a certain category of its staff working at headquarters or in the field and hired in Geneva to take early retirement at 57 instead of 62. This plan is revocable at any time.

The obligation to employees who presently benefit from this plan is shown under “Current employee benefit liabilities”
CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2006

(in Note 5.3.10), discounted to its present value. The discount rate is the yield at balance sheet date on a five-year Swiss government bond. It covers the period from the date of the ICRC retirement up to the date of Swiss legal retirement.

Allocations made towards the cost of future early retirements are included in the human resources reserve.

DELEGATION EMPLOYEES BENEFITS

Personnel employed locally by the delegations receive social benefits in accordance with the legislation of the countries concerned and the local collective staff agreements.

5.2.19 Expenditure

OPERATING LEASE PAYMENTS

Payments made under operating leases are recognized in the statement of income and expenditure on a straight-line basis over the term of the lease. Lease incentives received are recognized in the statement of income and expenditure as an integral part of the total lease payments made.

5.2.20 Contingent assets

The ICRC views pledges falling due after five years as probably being receivable but given the operating environment, receipt is not virtually certain as defined in IAS 37. Consequently, management has considered these receivables as contingent assets, which have not been accounted for in the balance sheet as at 31 December 2006 (see Note 5.3.24).

5.2.21 Contingent liabilities

A contingent liability is a possible obligation that arises from past events and whose existence will be confirmed only on the occurrence or non-occurrence of one or more uncertain future events that are not wholly within the control of the ICRC, or is a present obligation that arises from past events but an outflow of economic benefit is not probable or the obligation cannot be measured with sufficient reliability. Such contingent liabilities are recorded under Note 5.3.25.

5.3 NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

This section provides a breakdown of the main items on the balance sheet, the statement of income and expenditure, the cash flow statement and the statement of changes in reserves. All figures are in thousands of Swiss francs (KCHF) and represent a consolidation of the headquarters and field financial data.

5.3.1 Cash and cash equivalents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>(in KCHF)</th>
<th>2006</th>
<th>2005</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cash and bank accounts, net</td>
<td>33,713</td>
<td>89,781</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time deposits</td>
<td>191,977</td>
<td>151,048</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash and bank balances</td>
<td>225,690</td>
<td>240,829</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bank overdrafts</td>
<td>-444</td>
<td>-591</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash and cash equivalents</td>
<td>225,246</td>
<td>240,238</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

5.3.2 Securities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>(in KCHF)</th>
<th>2006</th>
<th>2005</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Debt and equity securities</td>
<td>56,179</td>
<td>46,099</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deposits</td>
<td>4,498</td>
<td>12,660</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total securities</td>
<td>60,677</td>
<td>58,759</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Deposits included in securities have an original maturity of over three months.

5.3.3 Accounts receivable and prepayments

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>(in KCHF)</th>
<th>2006</th>
<th>2005</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pledges (see also Note 5.3.24)</td>
<td>302,223</td>
<td>151,243</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Re-invoiced costs commercial</td>
<td>1,552</td>
<td>1,721</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, organizations, foundations and funds</td>
<td>3,750</td>
<td>4,863</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Withholding taxes</td>
<td>2,952</td>
<td>1,561</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Allowance for accounts receivable</td>
<td>-2,600</td>
<td>-4,400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total accounts receivable</td>
<td>307,877</td>
<td>154,988</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prepaid expenses</td>
<td>7,470</td>
<td>8,964</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social security and insurance contributions</td>
<td>96</td>
<td>319</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advance payments to suppliers</td>
<td>244</td>
<td>220</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advance payments to employees</td>
<td>3,370</td>
<td>3,738</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total prepayments</td>
<td>11,180</td>
<td>13,241</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total accounts receivable and prepayments</td>
<td>319,057</td>
<td>168,229</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

5.3.4 Inventories

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>(in KCHF)</th>
<th>2006</th>
<th>2005</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Relief</td>
<td>3,332</td>
<td>2,452</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medical and physical rehabilitation</td>
<td>10,064</td>
<td>8,048</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water and habitat</td>
<td>3,195</td>
<td>3,074</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>5,158</td>
<td>5,246</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Allowance for inventory</td>
<td>-267</td>
<td>-350</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total inventories</td>
<td>21,422</td>
<td>18,470</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

All inventories comprise finished goods.
### 5.3.5 Property, equipment and intangibles

#### Historical acquisition costs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Land and buildings</th>
<th>Equipment and vehicles</th>
<th>Total 2006 property and equipment</th>
<th>Total 2006 intangibles (software)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Balance at 1 January 2006</td>
<td>66,858</td>
<td>119,299</td>
<td>186,157</td>
<td>27,299</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Additions</td>
<td>4,612</td>
<td>17,092</td>
<td>21,704</td>
<td>3,821</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disposals</td>
<td>-1,451</td>
<td>-14,068</td>
<td>-15,519</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Balance at 31 December 2006</strong></td>
<td><strong>70,019</strong></td>
<td><strong>122,323</strong></td>
<td><strong>192,342</strong></td>
<td><strong>31,120</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Accumulated depreciation and value adjustments

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Land and buildings</th>
<th>Equipment and vehicles</th>
<th>Total 2006 property and equipment</th>
<th>Total 2006 intangibles (software)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Balance at 1 January 2006</td>
<td>-22,735</td>
<td>-77,257</td>
<td>-99,992</td>
<td>-21,202</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Impairment losses</td>
<td>-2</td>
<td>-15,379</td>
<td>-17,712</td>
<td>-1,253</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Depreciation charge for the year</td>
<td>-2,333</td>
<td>-1,839</td>
<td>-4,172</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disposals</td>
<td>719</td>
<td>13,120</td>
<td>13,839</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Balance at 31 December 2006</strong></td>
<td><strong>-24,351</strong></td>
<td><strong>-79,516</strong></td>
<td><strong>-103,867</strong></td>
<td><strong>-22,474</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Net book value as at 31 December 2006

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Land and buildings</th>
<th>Equipment and vehicles</th>
<th>Total 2006 property and equipment</th>
<th>Total 2006 intangibles (software)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>45,668</td>
<td>42,807</td>
<td>88,475</td>
<td>8,646</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Historical acquisition costs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Land and buildings</th>
<th>Equipment and vehicles</th>
<th>Total 2006 property and equipment</th>
<th>Total 2006 intangibles (software)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Balance at 1 January 2005</td>
<td>63,258</td>
<td>112,836</td>
<td>176,094</td>
<td>25,355</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Additions</td>
<td>3,795</td>
<td>19,337</td>
<td>23,132</td>
<td>1,944</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disposals</td>
<td>-195</td>
<td>-12,874</td>
<td>-13,069</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Balance at 31 December 2005</strong></td>
<td><strong>66,858</strong></td>
<td><strong>119,299</strong></td>
<td><strong>186,157</strong></td>
<td><strong>27,299</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Accumulated depreciation and value adjustments

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Land and buildings</th>
<th>Equipment and vehicles</th>
<th>Total 2006 property and equipment</th>
<th>Total 2006 intangibles (software)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Balance at 1 January 2005</td>
<td>-20,045</td>
<td>-74,137</td>
<td>-94,182</td>
<td>-20,098</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Impairment losses</td>
<td>-508</td>
<td>-213</td>
<td>-721</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Depreciation charge for the year</td>
<td>-2,219</td>
<td>12,027</td>
<td>-17,246</td>
<td>-1,104</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disposals</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>12,120</td>
<td>12,157</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Balance at 31 December 2005</strong></td>
<td><strong>-22,735</strong></td>
<td><strong>-77,257</strong></td>
<td><strong>-99,992</strong></td>
<td><strong>-21,202</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Net book value as at 31 December 2005

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Land and buildings</th>
<th>Equipment and vehicles</th>
<th>Total 2006 property and equipment</th>
<th>Total 2006 intangibles (software)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>44,123</td>
<td>42,042</td>
<td>86,165</td>
<td>6,097</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The intangible assets represent computer software that was purchased from third parties and have a finite life.

---

**a. Work in progress**

At 31 December 2006 assets include work in progress comprising KCHF 1,274 for construction and renovation works for buildings (2005: KCHF 1,378), KCHF nil for equipment (2005: KCHF 57) and KCHF 2,827 for software in development acquired externally or generated internally (2005: KCHF 2,064).

**b. Impairment loss**

An assessment of the value attributed to assets caused the ICRC to write down the carrying amount by KCHF 21 (2005: KCHF 721).

**c. Finance leases**

Net equipment held under finance lease amount to KCHF 741 at 31 December 2006 (2005: KCHF 1,110).

**d. Security: mortgage loan on property**

At 31 December 2006 the headquarters building No 3 is subject to two mortgage notes of KCHF 7,050 each to secure the interest-bearing mortgage loan (see Note 5.3.8).

**e. Insurance value**

The buildings owned and utilized by the ICRC have a total insurance cover of KCHF 110,569 (2005: KCHF 107,488). The buildings owned by the ICRC have an insurance value of KCHF 73,968 (2005: KCHF 72,366).
5.3.6 Other assets

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2006</th>
<th>2005</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Guarantee deposits</td>
<td>1,387</td>
<td>1,401</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financial assets</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total other assets</td>
<td>1,392</td>
<td>1,406</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

5.3.7 Accounts payable

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2006</th>
<th>2005</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Governments</td>
<td>7,786</td>
<td>9,289</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, organizations, foundations and funds</td>
<td>2,730</td>
<td>1,814</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Suppliers</td>
<td>11,581</td>
<td>15,132</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social security and insurance contributions</td>
<td>20,890</td>
<td>19,325</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sundry items</td>
<td>335</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total accounts payable</td>
<td>43,322</td>
<td>45,630</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

5.3.8 Financial liabilities

### Current financial liabilities (in KCHF)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2006</th>
<th>2005</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bank overdrafts</td>
<td>444</td>
<td>591</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current portion of non-current financial liabilities</td>
<td>590</td>
<td>779</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total current financial liabilities</td>
<td>1,034</td>
<td>1,379</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Non-current financial liabilities (in KCHF)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2006</th>
<th>2005</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Loans</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest-bearing loan</td>
<td>10,000</td>
<td>7,100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unsecured loan</td>
<td>8,757</td>
<td>8,967</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financial Leases</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lease obligation</td>
<td>741</td>
<td>1,110</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total loans and financial leases</td>
<td>19,498</td>
<td>17,177</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current portion</td>
<td>-590</td>
<td>-779</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total non-current financial liabilities</td>
<td>18,908</td>
<td>16,398</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Terms and loan repayment schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>within 1 year</th>
<th>2-5 years</th>
<th>more than 5 years</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Interest-bearing loan (effective rate)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KCHF – fixed at 3.35%</td>
<td>10,000</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>10,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unsecured loan</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KCHF – granted at 0%</td>
<td>8,757</td>
<td>208</td>
<td>835</td>
<td>7,714</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>18,757</td>
<td>208</td>
<td>835</td>
<td>17,714</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The interest-bearing loan of KCHF 10,000 (2005: KCHF 7,100) relates to one building at the headquarters in Geneva. Interest amounted to KCHF 326 in 2006 (2005: KCHF 323).

The unsecured loan of initially KCHF 9,800 is interest free, reimbursable over 47 years and has been granted for the training centre in Ecogia-Geneva, Switzerland. Notional interest for a contributed service of KCHF 272 (2005: KCHF 295) has been recorded as expenditure and as income at 3.03% (2005: 3.21%).

The fair value of non-current financial liabilities amounts to KCHF 13,389 (2005: KCHF 10,537).

5.3.9 Provisions

### Current provisions for specific risks (in KCHF)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2006</th>
<th>2005</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Balance at 1 January</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>354</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Allocations during the year</td>
<td>642</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Use of provisions during the year</td>
<td>-58</td>
<td>-296</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>642</td>
<td>58</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The balance represents:

1. potential operational claims on the ICRC;
2. non-recoverable VAT;
3. insurance claims not yet settled.

### Non-current provisions

In 2006 there were no long-term provisions (2005: nil).

5.3.10 Employee benefits

The ICRC has a defined contribution pension plan and an early retirement plan for headquarters contracted staff, and an end-of-service plan for delegation employed staff. The following provides details of each of these plans.

#### A. Personnel pension plan

Under the defined contribution pension plan the ICRC paid KCHF 31,823 (2005: KCHF 32,819) to the pension fund.

The pension fund Board has, by a signed agreement with the ICRC, accepted the following:

1. the ICRC’s level of contributions is fixed at 17% of the pensionable salary;
2. the ICRC will not be liable for any additional contributions if the fund does not have sufficient assets to pay all employee benefits as defined in the pension fund regulations relating to employee service in the current and prior periods;
3. the ICRC will not be liable for any additional contributions if the fund does not maintain a 4% return on investment;
4. any surplus will not be used to reduce employer contributions.

#### B. Early retirement benefits

The future financial commitments due to early retirement benefits are borne by the ICRC and are included under the caption “Employee benefits – current liabilities” in the amount of KCHF 6,818 (2005: KCHF 7,317) for accepted early retirements. The human resources reserve includes an accumulated allocation of KCHF 5,432 (2005: KCHF 4,994) towards the cost of future early retirements.

The obligation for early retirement is calculated on the basis of the following actuarial assumptions:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2006</th>
<th>2005</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Discount rate</td>
<td>2.47%</td>
<td>1.81%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rate of pension increase</td>
<td>0.82%</td>
<td>0.79%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The discount rate is based on a five-year yield Swiss government bond and the rate of pension increase on the average Swiss inflation rate for the last 10 years.
The present value of future financial commitments due for end-of-service indemnities (e.g. end of employment, retirement, severance pay) are borne by the ICRC and are included under the caption “Employee benefits – current liabilities” in the amount of KCHF 30,955 (2005: KCHF 29,385). In 2006 allocations to this provision were KCHF 8,081 (2005: KCHF 12,324), and use of the provision was KCHF 6,511 (2005: KCHF 3,675). The indemnity is based on one month of compensation for every year of service up to a maximum of 12 months except for certain countries where local legislation requires otherwise. The calculated costs have been computed using the projected unit credit cost method. As there is only a lump sum benefit at the end of service there are no pensioners. The plan is unfunded and therefore the fair value of plan assets is nil.

The principal assumptions used for the purpose of the actuarial valuations were as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2006</th>
<th>2005</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Discount rate</td>
<td>5.30 – 11.81%</td>
<td>10.65 – 15.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Future salary increase</td>
<td>5.50 – 8.50%</td>
<td>6.75 – 10.7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

These rates have been expressed as a range reflecting the various material financial environments (countries) for which the obligation has been calculated.

Rates for mortality, disability, normal retirement and withdrawal vary depending on each country and the nature of ICRC operations. These variations do not have a material impact on the calculations.

### MOVEMENT IN NET OBLIGATION

**Current employee benefit liabilities**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2006</th>
<th>2005</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Staff vacation accruals</td>
<td>22,488</td>
<td>24,455</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salaries due to employees</td>
<td>3,288</td>
<td>3,334</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Early retirement</td>
<td>6,818</td>
<td>7,317</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Delegation employee benefits</td>
<td>30,955</td>
<td>29,385</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-current portion of current employee benefits</td>
<td>-4,833</td>
<td>-5,286</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total current employee benefit liabilities</td>
<td>58,716</td>
<td>59,205</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Non-current employee benefit liabilities**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2006</th>
<th>2005</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Early retirement</td>
<td>4,833</td>
<td>5,286</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total non-current employee benefit liabilities</td>
<td>4,833</td>
<td>5,286</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 5.3.11 Accrued expenses and deferred income

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2006</th>
<th>2005</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Accrued expenses</td>
<td>14,789</td>
<td>13,793</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, organizations, foundations and funds</td>
<td>1,049</td>
<td>1,139</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deferred income</td>
<td>97,659</td>
<td>47,714</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total accrued expenses and deferred income</td>
<td>113,497</td>
<td>62,646</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Non-current deferred income**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2006</th>
<th>2005</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Deferred income</td>
<td>120,565</td>
<td>16,533</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total non-current deferred income</td>
<td>120,565</td>
<td>16,533</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 5.3.12 Funds and foundations

The following balances are included in the consolidated financial statements from the funds and foundations.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2006</th>
<th>2005</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cash and bank accounts</td>
<td>913</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Securities</td>
<td>14,205</td>
<td>14,093</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accounts receivable and accrued interest</td>
<td>5,889</td>
<td>5,655</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deferred income</td>
<td>5,222</td>
<td>5,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contributions – private sources</td>
<td>756</td>
<td>1,142</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financial income</td>
<td>613</td>
<td>1,394</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other expenditure</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>61</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 5.3.13 Funding of field operations

#### A. Field operations with temporary deficit financing

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2006</th>
<th>2005</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Loosely earmarked balances</td>
<td>-59,671</td>
<td>-38,945</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tightly earmarked balances</td>
<td>-21</td>
<td>-71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>-59,692</td>
<td>-38,945</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Field operations are considered as deficit financing as soon as contributions do not cover the expenditure.

#### B. Donor-restricted contributions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2006</th>
<th>2005</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Loosely earmarked balances</td>
<td>35,560</td>
<td>60,254</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tightly earmarked balances</td>
<td>2,156</td>
<td>1,689</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>37,716</td>
<td>61,943</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In 2006, there was no reimbursement of contributions received in previous years (2005: nil).
5.3.14 Reserves designated by the Assembly

The future operations reserve is for insufficient operational funding, estimated at a level of the average of 2.5 months of cash, kind and services expenditure over the last five years, including both the headquarters and field structure. The theoretical level would be KCHF 176,308 (in 2005: KCHF 171,109).

5.3.15 Contributions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Contributions</th>
<th>2006</th>
<th>2005</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Governments</td>
<td>752,669</td>
<td>697,385</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>European Commission</td>
<td>84,932</td>
<td>90,129</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International organizations</td>
<td>399</td>
<td>186</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supranational organizations</td>
<td>865</td>
<td>283</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Societies</td>
<td>80,812</td>
<td>124,903</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public sources</td>
<td>4,491</td>
<td>4,476</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private sources</td>
<td>19,681</td>
<td>42,290</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>943,849</strong></td>
<td><strong>959,652</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

5.3.16 Operating expenditure by cash, kind and services

### Operating expenditure (in KCHF)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Operating expenditure</th>
<th>Cash</th>
<th>Kind</th>
<th>Services</th>
<th>Total 2006</th>
<th>Total 2005</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Field</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staff-related costs</td>
<td>-339,909</td>
<td>-12,994</td>
<td>-352,903</td>
<td>-336,210</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rentals</td>
<td>-103,124</td>
<td>-84</td>
<td>-103,208</td>
<td>-197,107</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subcontracted maintenance</td>
<td>-21,905</td>
<td>-16,716</td>
<td>-14,599</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Purchase of goods and materials</td>
<td>-201,505</td>
<td>-16,716</td>
<td>-14,377</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General expenditure</td>
<td>-20,971</td>
<td>-272</td>
<td>-21,243</td>
<td>-19,862</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Depreciation</td>
<td>-15,100</td>
<td>-15,100</td>
<td>-14,377</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>-782,828</strong></td>
<td><strong>-16,716</strong></td>
<td><strong>-13,078</strong></td>
<td><strong>-812,622</strong></td>
<td><strong>-763,128</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Operating expenditure</th>
<th>Cash</th>
<th>Kind</th>
<th>Services</th>
<th>Total 2006</th>
<th>Total 2005</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Headquarters</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staff-related costs</td>
<td>-112,145</td>
<td>-331</td>
<td>-112,476</td>
<td>-109,786</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mission costs</td>
<td>-4,803</td>
<td>-4,803</td>
<td>-5,232</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rentals</td>
<td>-1,963</td>
<td>-1,150</td>
<td>-3,113</td>
<td>-2,856</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subcontracted maintenance</td>
<td>-2,689</td>
<td>-2,689</td>
<td>-2,268</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Purchase of goods and materials</td>
<td>-2,724</td>
<td>-40</td>
<td>-2,764</td>
<td>-3,258</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General expenditure</td>
<td>-20,971</td>
<td>-272</td>
<td>-21,243</td>
<td>-19,862</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Depreciation</td>
<td>-4,414</td>
<td>-4,414</td>
<td>-4,341</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>-149,709</strong></td>
<td><strong>-40</strong></td>
<td><strong>-1,753</strong></td>
<td><strong>-151,502</strong></td>
<td><strong>-147,603</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
5.3.17 Headquarters overhead income, field overhead expenditure and administrative costs

As a contribution to the costs of headquarters’ support for operations in the field, an additional 6.5% is added to the budget of each operation for cash and service movements. This support includes services essential for an operation’s success such as human resources, finance, logistics, information technology and other support. The following analysis reconciles the audited consolidated financial statements to the management financial results of the emergency appeal.

a. The reconciliation of headquarters overhead income results in the following breakdown for the last two years:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2006 (in KCHF)</th>
<th>2005 (in KCHF)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Headquarters</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contributions</td>
<td>5.3.15</td>
<td>943,849</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less funds and foundations</td>
<td>5.3.12</td>
<td>-756</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ICRC contributions</td>
<td>126,467</td>
<td>943,093</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Internal allocation from field budget</td>
<td>51,734</td>
<td>51,734</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total income related to emergency appeal</strong></td>
<td>178,201</td>
<td>994,627</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

b. The reconciliation of field overhead expenditure is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2006 (in KCHF)</th>
<th>2005 (in KCHF)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Headquarters</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operational expenditure</td>
<td>5.3.16</td>
<td>-151,502</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Internal allocation to headquarters budget</td>
<td></td>
<td>-51,734</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total expenditure related to emergency appeal</td>
<td>-151,502</td>
<td>-1,015,858</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2005 (in KCHF)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Headquarters</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operational expenditure</td>
<td>5.3.16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Internal allocation to headquarters budget</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total expenditure related to emergency appeal</td>
<td>-147,603</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

b. Administrative costs

The following cost centres at headquarters are classified as administrative, not direct programme-oriented operating expenditure:

- presidency, directorate and management control;
- finance and administration;
- human resources;
- fundraising;
- information systems and archives.

Their total cost amounts to KCHF 86,541 (2005: KCHF 84,446) which represents 8.98% (2005: 9.27%) of the overall operational expenditures.
5.3.18  Staff-related costs and figures

The average number of positions/employees during 2006 (2005) was:

in the field:
- 1,529 (2005: 1,478) expatriate staff – including 157 (2005: 179) seconded by National Societies;
- 10,055 (2005: 9,965) locally recruited employees under ICRC contract;
- 1,750 (2005: 4,075) local daily workers.

at headquarters:

5.3.19  Leases

A. Operating leases as lessee

The ICRC leases warehouses, delegation buildings and means of transport under operating leases. The leases may typically run for a period of up to ten years, with an option to renew the lease after that date. Lease payments are increased annually to reflect market rentals.

During the current year CHF 105 million was recognized as rental expense in the statement of income and expenditure with respect to operating leases (2005: CHF 108 million) as follows:

B. Operating leases as lessor

In 2006, KCHF 585 (2005: KCHF 632) was recognized as income in the statement of income and expenditure in respect of subleases. These leases principally relate to vehicle parking at headquarters and ad hoc field facilities that are short-term in nature.

5.3.20  Financial income and expense

5.3.21  Other income and other expenditure

5.3.22  Taxes

The ICRC (but not its staff) is exempt from taxes in Switzerland and most countries in which its delegations are based.
5.3.23 Financial risk management
Exposure to currency and interest as well as credit and liquidity risks arises in the normal course of ICRC operations. Derivative financial instruments are used to reduce exposure to fluctuations in foreign currency exchange rates.

A. FOREIGN CURRENCY RISK
Exposure to foreign currency exchange rates arises from transactions denominated in currencies other than the ICRC’s functional currency, which is the Swiss franc. As a result of the foreign currency exposure, exchange rate fluctuations have a significant impact on the income statement. The risk is that the consolidated financial statements for a particular period or as of a certain date may be affected by changes in the value of transactions executed in currencies other than the ICRC’s measurement currency owing to currency fluctuations.

The ICRC incurs foreign currency risk on pledged contributions that are denominated in a currency other than Swiss francs. The currencies giving rise to this risk are primarily the euro, the pound sterling, the Swedish kroner and the US dollar.

At year end, the following positions were open:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>(in KCHF)</th>
<th>2006</th>
<th>2005</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Purchase of foreign currencies</td>
<td>50,307</td>
<td>31,922</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sale of foreign currencies</td>
<td>-81,712</td>
<td>-95,706</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The net result of marking forward exchange contracts to market at the balance sheet date was an income of KCHF 1,037 (2005: charge of KCHF 1,161).

Substantially, all financial instruments are denominated in Swiss francs except for the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>(in KCHF)</th>
<th>2006</th>
<th>2005</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Euro</td>
<td>12,692</td>
<td>27,877</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>US dollar</td>
<td>24,442</td>
<td>26,176</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Euro</td>
<td>75,221</td>
<td>43,242</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pound sterling</td>
<td>194,791</td>
<td>15,756</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>US dollar</td>
<td>22,916</td>
<td>50,206</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Euro</td>
<td>1,398</td>
<td>1,430</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>US dollar</td>
<td>9,497</td>
<td>14,516</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Euro</td>
<td>138</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>US dollar</td>
<td>347</td>
<td>1,313</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Except for an unsecured loan of KCHF 8,757 (2005: KCHF 8,967) (see Note 5.3.8), the fair value of the financial instruments held at 31 December 2006 does not differ from the carrying amounts shown in the balance sheet.

B. INTEREST RATE RISK
The ICRC has a fixed rate mortgage up to 30 June 2016 at a rate of 3.35%.

C. CREDIT RISK
The receivables are mostly with governments with high credit ratings, where credit risk is low.

Investments are allowed only in liquid securities and only with counterparties that have a high credit rating.

Other positions are not material, or are covered by provisions.

At the balance sheet date there were no significant concentrations of credit risk. The maximum exposure to credit risk is represented by the carrying amount of each financial asset, including the derivative financial instruments, in the balance sheet.

D. LIQUIDITY RISK
The ICRC has liquidity risk associated with foreign exchange forward cover. Funds in the appropriate foreign currency are retained to settle the forward contracts when they come due or the contract is swapped forward until sufficient foreign currency is available.

5.3.24 Contingent assets
In 2006, pledges falling due after five years amounting to KCHF 3,491 (2005: KCHF 4,500) have been considered as contingent assets.

5.3.25 Contingent liabilities
The ICRC has contingent liabilities for operational claims amounting to KCHF 4,142 (2005: KCHF 1,517). These claims are principally legal in nature where the definitive amount and exact timing of each is subject to various legal proceedings of the country in which they have been issued.

5.3.26 Capital and contractual commitments
Capital commitments
Capital expenditures of KCHF 6,331 (2005: KCHF 5,253) have been approved but not provided for in these consolidated financial statements.

Contractual commitments
Open purchase orders of KCHF 7,496 have been issued to third parties but not provided for in these consolidated financial statements.

5.3.27 Related parties
A. IDENTITY OF RELATED PARTIES
The ICRC has a related party relationship with five funds (Augusta fund, Nightingale fund, Maurice De Madre fund, Paul Reuter fund and the Special Fund for the Disabled). The objectives of these funds are to assist the ICRC in its activities.

In addition, the Avenir Foundation is an entity for the benefit of staff working at headquarters or in the field and hired in Geneva under an open-ended contract. Its purpose is to facilitate training of professional skills, to facilitate career moves and to improve retirement benefits. The ICRC pays fixed contributions to staff’s individual accounts of the foundation depending on the length of their employment.

Key management personnel are persons having authority and responsibility for planning, directing and controlling the activities of the ICRC. Related parties implies the directors and senior management as well as close members of their families or households.

The Assembly is the supreme governing body of the ICRC.
The ICRC has a **conflict-of-interest policy** whereby the Assembly, the directors, and the senior management must advise the Assembly or the human resources management responsible for any direct or indirect interest in any transaction or relationship with the ICRC and are disqualified from participation in discussions and decisions regarding any action affecting their individual, professional, or business interests.

**B. TRANSACTIONS WITH RELATED PARTIES**

During the year, the ICRC received income of KCHF nil (2005: KCHF nil) from these five funds.

In 2006, contributions to the Avenir Foundation amount to KCHF 10,966 (2005: KCHF 10,306), and an amount of KCHF 3,896 (2005: KCHF 3,223) for training purposes, professional integration outside of the ICRC and early retirements was paid out by the Foundation.

There were no transactions with key management personnel except those described in the following paragraph. With the exception of the president and the permanent vice-president, none of the other members of the Assembly, or any person related to them, have received any remuneration from the ICRC during the year.

For cash management purposes, the ICRC acted on behalf of the following funds: Nightingale fund, Maurice De Madre fund, and the Special Fund for the Disabled.

**C. CURRENT ACCOUNT BALANCES**

The current account balances of the related parties recorded under accounts receivable (see Note 5.3.3) are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Current account balances (in KCHF)</th>
<th>2006</th>
<th>2005</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Augusta fund</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nightingale fund</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maurice De Madre fund</td>
<td>233</td>
<td>172</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paul Reuter fund</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special Fund for the Disabled</td>
<td>1,371</td>
<td>1,033</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**D. REMUNERATION**

The salaries and benefits of the president, the permanent vice-president, the six directors and the head of Internal Audit of the ICRC are set by the Remuneration Commission. Their total remuneration amounted to KCHF 3,087 (2005: KCHF 3,350) including employer expenses for social insurance and social benefits. No other salaries and benefits (e.g. fringe benefits, loans) were granted to them.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Related party remuneration (in KCHF)</th>
<th>Total 2006</th>
<th>Total 2005</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Short-term employee benefits</td>
<td>2,577</td>
<td>2,753</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Post-employment benefits</td>
<td>441</td>
<td>528</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other long-term benefits</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total remuneration</strong></td>
<td><strong>3,087</strong></td>
<td><strong>3,350</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The non-permanent members of the Assembly, or persons related or connected by business to them, did not receive any remuneration from the ICRC during the year.

**5.3.28 Subsequent events**

No events occurred between 31 December 2006 and the approval of the consolidated financial statements by the Assembly Council on 5 April 2007 that would require modification of or disclosure in the consolidated financial statements.
Report of the external Auditors to the Assembly of the Members of

The International Committee of the Red Cross

As external auditors of your association, we have audited the consolidated financial statements (comprising consolidated balance sheet, statement of income and expenditure, cash flow statement, statement of changes in reserves and notes) of the International Committee of the Red Cross for the year ended 31 December 2006. These consolidated financial statements are the responsibility of the Directors. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these consolidated 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 Swiss Auditing Standards and International Standards on Auditing. Those Standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the consolidated financial statements are free from material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the consolidated financial statements; assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made and evaluating the overall consolidated financial statement presentation. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the consolidated financial statements give a true and fair view of the financial position of the International Committee of the Red Cross as of 31 December 2006, and the results of operations, the changes in reserves and the cash flows in accordance with the International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS). Furthermore, the accounting records and consolidated financial statements comply with Swiss law and the articles of incorporation.

We recommend that the consolidated financial statements submitted to you be approved.

KPMG Ltd

Hélène Bégum
Auditor in Charge

Hugues Favard

Geneva, 10 April 2007
### 6.1. Income and Expenditure Related to the 2006 Emergency and Headquarters Appeals

**(in KCHF)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Programme</th>
<th>2006 Initial Budget</th>
<th>2006 Final Budget</th>
<th>2006 Final Budget Adjustments</th>
<th>2006 Final Budget Amendments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>1. EMERGENCY APPEALS (FIELD)</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Africa</td>
<td>385,234</td>
<td>23,266</td>
<td>408,500</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asia and the Pacific</td>
<td>231,161</td>
<td>17,138</td>
<td>248,299</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Europe and the Americas</td>
<td>133,628</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>133,628</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Middle East and North Africa</td>
<td>102,652</td>
<td>109,652</td>
<td>212,304</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contingency</td>
<td>42,634</td>
<td>-5,714</td>
<td>36,920</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL EMERGENCY APPEALS (FIELD)</strong></td>
<td>895,309</td>
<td>144,342</td>
<td>1,039,651</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>2. HEADQUARTERS APPEAL</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>2.1 HEADQUARTERS FIELD SUPPORT</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Africa</td>
<td>24,210</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>24,210</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asia and the Pacific</td>
<td>13,653</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>13,653</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Europe and the Americas</td>
<td>14,229</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>14,229</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Middle East and North Africa</td>
<td>9,603</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>9,603</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SUBTOTAL HEADQUARTERS FIELD SUPPORT</strong></td>
<td>61,695</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>61,695</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>2.2 HEADQUARTERS OTHER ACTIVITIES</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assembly, Presidency and Management Control</td>
<td>3,967</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>3,967</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Directorate</td>
<td>10,832</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>10,832</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operations</td>
<td>34,499</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>34,499</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Law, Policy and Cooperation within the Movement</td>
<td>20,393</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>20,393</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communication</td>
<td>22,503</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>22,503</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SUBTOTAL HEADQUARTERS OTHER ACTIVITIES</strong></td>
<td>92,194</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>92,194</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL HEADQUARTERS</strong></td>
<td>153,889</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>153,889</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>3. TOTAL FOUNDATION AND FUNDS</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>4. OPERATING ACTIVITIES RELATED CONTRIBUTIONS AND EXPENDITURE</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total ICRC income and expenditure</td>
<td>185,752</td>
<td>534,257</td>
<td>145,952</td>
<td>89,559</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deduction of field non-operating income</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deduction of headquarters non-operating income</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deduction of overheads</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deduction of cross-charging (foundation and funds)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL ICRC OPERATING ACTIVITIES RELATED CONTRIBUTIONS AND EXPENDITURE</strong></td>
<td>185,752</td>
<td>534,257</td>
<td>145,952</td>
<td>89,559</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

N.B. Figures in these tables are rounded off, may vary slightly from the amounts presented in other documents and may result in rounding-off addition differences.
### INCOME

(Cash, kind and services)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cash contributions</th>
<th>Cash operating income</th>
<th>Overheads</th>
<th>Kind contributions</th>
<th>Service contributions</th>
<th>2006 Total Income</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>366,308</td>
<td>1,413</td>
<td>9,643</td>
<td>6,055</td>
<td>383,419</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>158,359</td>
<td>468</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>5,362</td>
<td>164,308</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>118,098</td>
<td>311</td>
<td>767</td>
<td>957</td>
<td>120,133</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>143,974</td>
<td>249</td>
<td>6,187</td>
<td>796</td>
<td>151,206</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>786,740</td>
<td>2,441</td>
<td>16,718</td>
<td>13,170</td>
<td>819,067</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Funding of Field Operations

(Balances brought forward)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2005 Donor-restricted contributions brought forward</th>
<th>2006 Donor-restricted contributions brought forward</th>
<th>Adjustments and transfers</th>
<th>2006 Donor-restricted contributions with emergency deficit financing</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>11,262</td>
<td>- 16,845</td>
<td>1,617</td>
<td>- 16,999</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>33,836</td>
<td>- 8,043</td>
<td>12,702</td>
<td>- 12,160</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>619</td>
<td>- 8,630</td>
<td>485</td>
<td>- 11,804</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15,680</td>
<td>- 5,427</td>
<td>208</td>
<td>- 18,708</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>61,461</td>
<td>- 38,945</td>
<td>646</td>
<td>37,545 - 59,671</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Contingency

| 1. EMERGENCY APPEALS (FIELD)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Africa</th>
<th>Asia and the Pacific</th>
<th>Europe and the Americas</th>
<th>Middle East and North Africa</th>
<th>Contingency</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>11,262</td>
<td>- 16,845</td>
<td>1,617</td>
<td>- 16,999</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>33,836</td>
<td>- 8,043</td>
<td>12,702</td>
<td>- 12,160</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>619</td>
<td>- 8,630</td>
<td>485</td>
<td>- 11,804</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15,680</td>
<td>- 5,427</td>
<td>208</td>
<td>- 18,708</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>61,461</td>
<td>- 38,945</td>
<td>646</td>
<td>37,545 - 59,671</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| 2. HEADQUARTERS APPEAL

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Headquarters general</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| 2.1 HEADQUARTERS FIELD SUPPORT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Africa</th>
<th>Asia and the Pacific</th>
<th>Europe and the Americas</th>
<th>Middle East and North Africa</th>
<th>SUBTOTAL HEADQUARTERS FIELD SUPPORT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>123,436</td>
<td>5,185</td>
<td>51,734</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>180,355</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>28</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>28</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>241</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>241</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>-</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>268</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>268</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| 2.2 HEADQUARTERS OTHER ACTIVITIES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assembly, Presidency and Management Control</th>
<th>Law, Policy and Cooperation within the Movement</th>
<th>Communication</th>
<th>Kind and services for buildings</th>
<th>SUBTOTAL HEADQUARTERS OTHER ACTIVITIES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>808</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>368</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>34</td>
<td>368</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>106</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>211</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>13</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>69</td>
<td>436</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1,210</td>
<td>1,491</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>1,753</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>124,646</td>
<td>183,699</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>1,753</td>
<td>183,699</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>3. TOTAL FOUNDATION AND FUNDS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>912,585</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- 2,441</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- 5,498</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- 51,734</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- 444</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>912,141</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>4. OPERATING ACTIVITIES RELATED CONTRIBUTIONS AND EXPENDITURE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total ICRC income and expenditure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deduction of field non-operating income</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deduction of headquarters non-operating income</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deduction of overheads</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deduction of cross-charging (foundation and funds)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL ICRC OPERATING ACTIVITIES RELATED CONTRIBUTIONS AND EXPENDITURE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>61,943 - 38,945</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>646</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>37,695 - 59,671</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### 6.2. Income and Expenditure by Delegation Related to the 2006 Emergency Appeals

(in KCHF)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>BUDGET (in KCHF)</th>
<th>EXPENDITURE BY PROGRAMME (Cash, kind and services)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2006 Final budget</td>
<td>Protection</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Amendments</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>General</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2006 Final budget</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Angola</td>
<td>12,707</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burundi</td>
<td>9,214</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chad</td>
<td>8,609</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Congo</td>
<td>7,142</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Congo, Democratic Republic of the</td>
<td>29,614</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eritrea</td>
<td>9,009</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ethiopia</td>
<td>26,234</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guinea</td>
<td>8,531</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rwanda</td>
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<tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asia and the Pacific</td>
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<td>17,138</td>
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</table>

N.B. Figures in these tables are rounded off, may vary slightly from the amounts presented in other documents and may result in rounding-off addition differences.
### INCOME
(Cash, kind and services)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Africa</th>
<th>Asia and the Pacific</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2006 Field operations with temporary deficit financing</td>
<td>11,326 - 16,845 278 1,617 - 16,999</td>
<td>33,836 - 8,043 86 12,702 - 12,160</td>
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<tr>
<td>2006 Donor-restricted contributions</td>
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<tr>
<td>2005 Field operations with temporary deficit financing</td>
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<td>Adjustments and transfers</td>
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<tr>
<td>2005 Donor-restricted contributions</td>
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<tr>
<td>2005 Field operations brought forward</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Services contributions</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash contributions</td>
<td>366,308 1,413 9,643 6,055 383,419</td>
<td>158,359 468 120 5,382 164,308</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cash non-operating income</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kind contributions</td>
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### FUNDING OF FIELD OPERATIONS
(Balances brought forward)

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<th>Description</th>
<th>Africa</th>
<th>Asia and the Pacific</th>
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<td>11,326 - 16,845 278 1,617 - 16,999</td>
<td>33,836 - 8,043 86 12,702 - 12,160</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006 Donor-restricted contributions</td>
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<tr>
<td>2005 Field operations with temporary deficit financing</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Adjustments and transfers</td>
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<tr>
<td>2005 Donor-restricted contributions</td>
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<tr>
<td>2005 Field operations brought forward</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Services contributions</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cash contributions</td>
<td>366,308 1,413 9,643 6,055 383,419</td>
<td>158,359 468 120 5,382 164,308</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash non-operating income</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kind contributions</td>
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</tbody>
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1. **Africa**
   - Angola
   - Burundi
   - Chad
   - Congo, Democratic Republic of the
   - Eritrea
   - Ethiopia
   - Guinea
   - Liberia
   - Rwanda
   - Sierra Leone
   - Somalia
   - Sudan
   - Uganda
   - Abidjan (regional)
   - Abuja (regional)
   - Dakar (regional)
   - Harare (regional)
   - Nairobi (regional)
   - Pretoria (regional)
   - Yaoundé (regional)

2. **Asia and the Pacific**
   - Afghanistan
   - Indonesia
   - Myanmar
   - Nepal
   - Philippines
   - Sri Lanka
   - Bangkok (regional)
   - Beijing (regional)
   - Kuala Lumpur (regional)
   - New Delhi (regional)
   - Suva (regional)
   - Tashkent (regional)
### 6.2. INCOME AND EXPENDITURE BY DELEGATION RELATED TO THE 2006 EMERGENCY APPEALS (cont.)

#### (in KCHF)

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<th>BUDGET</th>
<th>EXPENDITURE BY PROGRAMME</th>
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<td>Cash, kind and services</td>
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<td>Protection</td>
<td>Assistance</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cooperation with National Societies</td>
<td>Prevention</td>
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#### Europe and the Americas

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<th>2006 Final budget</th>
<th>2006 Total expenditure</th>
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#### Middle East and North Africa

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<th>2006 Initial budget</th>
<th>2006 Amendments</th>
<th>2006 Final budget</th>
<th>2006 Total expenditure</th>
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<td>109,652</td>
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</table>

#### Contingency

| Contingency | 42,634 | - | 5,714 | 36,920 |

#### TOTAL FIELD

| TOTAL FIELD | 895,309 | 144,342 | 1,039,651 |

N.B. Figures in these tables are rounded off, may vary slightly from the amounts presented in other documents and may result in rounding-off addition differences.
### INCOME
(Cash, kind and services)

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<th>Fund Type</th>
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<td>temporary deficit financing</td>
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### FUNDING OF FIELD OPERATIONS
(Balances brought forward)

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<th>Adjustment</th>
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<tr>
<td>Bosnia and Herzegovina</td>
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<tr>
<td>Georgia</td>
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<td>Kyiv (regional)</td>
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<td>Moscow (regional)</td>
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<td>Total Europe and the Americas</td>
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</table>

| Contingency                      |        |        |            |
|                                  |        |        |            |
|                                  |        |        |            |

| Total                              |        |        |            |
|                                   |        |        |            |
|                                   |        |        |            |

### Footer

ICRC ANNUAL REPORT 2006

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## 7. CONTRIBUTIONS IN 2006

### 7.0 SUMMARY OF ALL CONTRIBUTIONS (in CHF)

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<th>Headquarters appeal</th>
<th>Emergency appeals</th>
<th>Adjustments on previous years</th>
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<th>Total kind</th>
<th>Total services</th>
<th>Subtotal</th>
<th>Total assets</th>
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N.B. Figures in tables are rounded off, may vary slightly from the amounts presented in other documents and may result in rounding-off addition differences.
N.B. Figures in these tables are rounded off, may vary slightly from the amounts presented in other documents and may result in rounding-off addition differences.
### 7.2 EUROPEAN COMMISSION (1) (in CHF)

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(1) Member of the Donor Support Group

N.B. Figures in these tables are rounded off, may vary slightly from the amounts presented in other documents and may result in rounding-off addition differences.

### 7.3 INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS (in CHF)

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### 7.5 NATIONAL SOCIETIES (in CHF)

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N.B. Figures in these tables are rounded off, may vary slightly from the amounts presented in other documents and may result in rounding-off addition differences.
## 7.6 PUBLIC SOURCES (in CHF)

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<th>Adjustments on previous years</th>
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<th>Total kind</th>
<th>Total services</th>
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<th>Total assets</th>
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N.B. Figures in these tables are rounded off, may vary slightly from the amounts presented in other documents and may result in rounding-off addition differences.
### 7.7 PRIVATE SOURCES (in CHF)

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N.B. Figures in these tables are rounded off, may vary slightly from the amounts presented in other documents and may result in rounding-off addition differences.
8. **CONTRIBUTIONS IN KIND, IN SERVICES AND TO DELEGATED PROJECTS (DPs) AND INTEGRATED PROJECTS (IPs) 2006** (in CHF)

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<th>Donations for delegated projects and integrated projects</th>
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**Governments**

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<th>Donations in services (excluding DPs &amp; IPs)</th>
<th>Donations for delegated projects and integrated projects</th>
<th>Grand total</th>
<th>Number of days of employee service</th>
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N.B. Figures in these tables are rounded off, may vary slightly from the amounts presented in other documents and may result in rounding-off addition differences.
8. CONTRIBUTIONS IN KIND, IN SERVICES AND TO DELEGATED PROJECTS (DPs) AND INTEGRATED PROJECTS (IPs) 2006 (CONT.)

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<tr>
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<th>Donations in kind (excluding DPs &amp; IPs)</th>
<th>Donations in services (excluding DPs &amp; IPs)</th>
<th>Donations for delegated projects and integrated projects</th>
<th>Grand total</th>
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</table>

N.B. Figures in these tables are rounded off, may vary slightly from the amounts presented in other documents and may result in rounding-off addition differences.
9. ASSISTANCE SUPPLIES

The statistical data in the tables overleaf can be summarized as follows:

9.1 CONTRIBUTIONS IN KIND RECEIVED AND PURCHASES MADE BY THE ICRC IN 2006

All assistance supplies received as contributions in kind or purchased by the ICRC and inventoried in the country of final destination between 1 January and 31 December 2006. The figures for contributions in kind cover all material support received as a gift but do not include any services received, such as the provision of human resources and/or logistical means. The figures for assistance supplies purchases comprise all procurements carried out both with non-earmarked and with earmarked financial contributions ("cash for kind"). The grand total of CHF 160,102,851 therefore corresponds to the grand total given in the table "Assistance supplies dispatched in 2006".

9.2 ASSISTANCE SUPPLIES DISPATCHED BY THE ICRC IN 2006

All assistance supplies received as contributions in kind or purchased by the ICRC and inventoried in the country of final destination between 1 January and 31 December 2006.

9.3 ASSISTANCE SUPPLIES DISTRIBUTED BY THE ICRC IN 2006

All assistance supplies distributed by the ICRC in the field between 1 January and 31 December 2006. These goods were either purchased or received in kind during 2006 or taken from stock already constituted at the end of 2005.
## 9.1 Contributions in Kind Received and Purchases Made by the ICRC in 2006

(Reported by donors and purchases, according to stock entry date)

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<th>Donors</th>
<th>Food (Tonnes)</th>
<th>Seed (Tonnes)</th>
<th>Blankets (Units)</th>
<th>Tents (Units)</th>
<th>Kitchen sets (Units)</th>
<th>Clothes (Tonnes)</th>
<th>Other relief goods (Tonnes)</th>
<th>Total relief (Tonnes)</th>
<th>Water &amp; Medical (CHF)</th>
<th>Medical ** (CHF)</th>
<th>Grand total (CHF)</th>
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</table>

* RELIEF includes: food, seed, agricultural inputs and essential household items.
** MEDICAL includes physical rehabilitation items.
## 9.2 ASSISTANCE SUPPLIES DISPATCHED BY THE ICRC IN 2006
(by receiving countries, according to stock entry date)

<table>
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<th>Countries</th>
<th>Contributions in Kind</th>
<th>Purchases by the ICRC</th>
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* Medical includes physical rehabilitation items.
** Relief includes food, seed, agricultural inputs and essential household items.
## 9.3 ASSISTANCE SUPPLIES DISTRIBUTED BY THE ICRC IN 2006

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<td>0.2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Georgia</td>
<td>75,468</td>
<td>27,794</td>
<td>1,541,270</td>
<td>2,275.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Macedonia, the Former Yugoslav Republic of</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>911</td>
<td>0.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Russian Federation</td>
<td>3,123,348</td>
<td>668,951</td>
<td>5,657,774</td>
<td>2,013.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Serbia, Montenegro</td>
<td>34,189</td>
<td>28.0</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bolivia</td>
<td>10,964</td>
<td>7,496</td>
<td>3.8</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chile</td>
<td>111</td>
<td>637</td>
<td>0.1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colombia</td>
<td>179,357</td>
<td>366,651</td>
<td>5,607,314</td>
<td>2,714.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Haiti</td>
<td>72,689</td>
<td>51,595</td>
<td>25,116</td>
<td>7.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Panama</td>
<td>8,618</td>
<td>17,014</td>
<td>6.3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paraguay</td>
<td>125</td>
<td>474</td>
<td>0.1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peru</td>
<td>10,673</td>
<td>25,020</td>
<td>6.1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United States of America</td>
<td>2,576</td>
<td>0.6</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Venezuela</td>
<td>1,983</td>
<td>0.6</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MIDDLE EAST &amp; NORTH AFRICA</td>
<td>3,465,707</td>
<td>2,349,055</td>
<td>23,908,316</td>
<td>11,705.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Egypt</td>
<td>1,369,769</td>
<td>182,582</td>
<td>3,388,206</td>
<td>1,528.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iraq</td>
<td>21,429</td>
<td>12.0</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Israel (including the occupied and autonomous territories)</td>
<td>794,020</td>
<td>858,480</td>
<td>4,667,101</td>
<td>2,128.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lebanon</td>
<td>1,139,605</td>
<td>1,296,731</td>
<td>15,548,995</td>
<td>7,986.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mauritania</td>
<td>126</td>
<td>3,577</td>
<td>0.8</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Syrian Arab Republic</td>
<td>71,239</td>
<td>2,357</td>
<td>94,396</td>
<td>25.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yemen</td>
<td>90,948</td>
<td>8,905</td>
<td>84,612</td>
<td>23.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GRAND TOTAL</td>
<td>18,451,033</td>
<td>15,387,516</td>
<td>109,513,660</td>
<td>90,543.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* MEDICAL includes physical rehabilitation items.
** RELIEF includes: food, seed, agricultural inputs and essential household items.
## 10. SPECIAL FUNDS

### 10.1 FOUNDATION FOR THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS (in KCHF)

**BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2006**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2006</th>
<th>2005</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>ASSETS</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current assets</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash and cash equivalents</td>
<td>913</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Securities</td>
<td>11,267</td>
<td>11,079</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International Committee of the Red Cross, current account</td>
<td>173</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accounts receivable</td>
<td>6,134</td>
<td>5,558</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accrued interest</td>
<td>93</td>
<td>99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total assets</strong></td>
<td>18,407</td>
<td>16,950</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>LIABILITIES AND RESERVES</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liabilities</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International Committee of the Red Cross, current account</td>
<td>8</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deferred income</td>
<td>5,550</td>
<td>5,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total liabilities</strong></td>
<td>5,558</td>
<td>5,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reserves</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Restricted reserves</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inalienable capital</td>
<td>886</td>
<td>886</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unrestricted reserves</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inalienable capital designated by the Board</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balance brought forward</td>
<td>8,303</td>
<td>7,060</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Allocation / - release during the year</td>
<td>1,227</td>
<td>9,530</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Financial risk reserves</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balance brought forward</td>
<td>2,003</td>
<td>1,281</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Allocation / - release during the year</td>
<td>181</td>
<td>2,184</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General reserves</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balance brought forward</td>
<td>258</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Allocation / - release during the year</td>
<td>-258</td>
<td>-24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Result for the year after transfer from/to reserves</td>
<td>249</td>
<td>249</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total unrestricted reserves</strong></td>
<td>11,963</td>
<td>10,564</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total reserves</strong></td>
<td>12,849</td>
<td>11,450</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total liabilities and reserves</strong></td>
<td>18,407</td>
<td>16,950</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Establishment
Created on 1 May 1931; statutes and objectives revised in 2002.

Purpose
The Foundation strives to secure long-term support for the ICRC by establishing a substantial endowment fund income, most of which will be freely available to the organization.

Administration
The Foundation Board is made up of representatives of business and political circles and the ICRC:

- one representative of the Swiss Confederation;
- between five and eleven members appointed by the ICRC.

Note: the 2005 unrealized gains on securities balance, the related 2005 allocation to the financial risk reserves and the presentation of the 2005 use of the general reserves have been reclassified to conform to the presentation used in 2006.
## 10.2 Augusta Fund (in KCHF)

### Balance Sheet As at 31 December 2006

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2006</th>
<th>2005</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>ASSETS</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current assets</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Share of the overall capital of the special funds</td>
<td>145</td>
<td>149</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total assets</strong></td>
<td>145</td>
<td>149</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>LIABILITIES AND RESERVES</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current liabilities</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Florence Nightingale Medal Fund, current account</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International Committee of the Red Cross, current account</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total current liabilities</strong></td>
<td>2</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reserves</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Restricted reserves</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inalienable capital</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unrestricted reserves</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General reserves</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Share of the overall provision for portfolio unrealized gains</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balance brought forward</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increase of unrealized gains during the year</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total unrestricted reserves</strong></td>
<td>43</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total reserves</strong></td>
<td>143</td>
<td>140</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total liabilities and reserves</strong></td>
<td>145</td>
<td>149</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Statement of Income and Expenditure for the Year Ended 31 December 2006

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2006</th>
<th>2005</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Income</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Share of net revenue from the overall capital of the special funds</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>2</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Expenditure</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Audit fees</td>
<td>-1</td>
<td>-1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>-1</td>
<td>-1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Result for the year before attribution to the Florence Nightingale Medal Fund and transfers from/- to reserves</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Allocation to unrestricted reserves</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attribution to the Florence Nightingale Medal Fund</td>
<td>-1</td>
<td>-8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Result for the year after attribution to the Florence Nightingale Medal Fund and transfers from/- to reserves</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Establishment

In 1890, at the initiative of the ICRC, to commemorate the services rendered to the Red Cross by the German Empress Augusta, wife of Wilhelm I.

### Administration

In view of the aforementioned decision, the same as for the Florence Nightingale Medal Fund.

### Purpose

Modified on several occasions. At the Twenty-first International Conference of the Red Cross, held in Istanbul in 1969, it was decided that, pending further modification, receipts from the Augusta Fund would be allocated to the Florence Nightingale Medal Fund. This decision was confirmed at the Twenty-second Conference, held in Tehran in 1973.
## 10.3 Florence Nightingale Medal Fund (in KCHF)

### Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2006

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ASSETS</th>
<th>2006</th>
<th>2005</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Current assets</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Share of the overall capital of the special funds</td>
<td>536</td>
<td>508</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Augusta Fund, current account</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stock of medals</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total assets</strong></td>
<td>544</td>
<td>524</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LIABILITIES AND RESERVES</th>
<th>2006</th>
<th>2005</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Current liabilities</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International Committee of the Red Cross, current account</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total current liabilities</strong></td>
<td>2</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Unrestricted reserves</strong></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Capital</strong></td>
<td>75</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>General reserves</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balance brought forward</td>
<td>370</td>
<td>342</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Result for the year after transfers from/- to reserves</td>
<td>7 377</td>
<td>28 370</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Share of the overall provision for portfolio unrealized gains</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balance brought forward</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increase of unrealized gains during the year</td>
<td>17 90</td>
<td>21 73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total unrestricted reserves</strong></td>
<td>542</td>
<td>518</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| **Total liabilities and reserves** | 544 | 524 |

### Statement of Income and Expenditure for the Year Ended 31 December 2006

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Income</th>
<th>2006</th>
<th>2005</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Share of net revenue from the overall capital of the special funds</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attribution from the Augusta Fund</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>10</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expenditure</th>
<th>2006</th>
<th>2005</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Presentation of medals, printing and dispatching circulars</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>-10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Audit fees</td>
<td>-2</td>
<td>-2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other expenses</td>
<td>-1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>-3</td>
<td>-12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Result for the year before transfers from/- to reserves | 7 | 28 |
| Allocation to unrestricted reserves | - | |
| **Result for the year after transfers from/- to reserves** | 7 | 28 |

**Establishment**

In accordance with the recommendations of the Eighth International Conference of the Red Cross, held in London, in 1907, and with the decision of the Ninth Conference held in Washington in 1912, a fund was established by contributions from National Red Cross Societies. The regulations were revised by the Eighteenth International Conference of the Red Cross, held in Toronto in 1952, and by the Council of Delegates, held in Budapest in 1991.

**Purpose**

The Fund’s income is used to distribute a medal, called the “Florence Nightingale Medal”, to honour the life and work of Florence Nightingale. The medal may be awarded to Red Cross and Red Crescent nurses and voluntary aides for having distinguished themselves by their service to sick and wounded people in time of peace or war. The medal is awarded every two years by the ICRC on the basis of proposals made to it by the National Societies. Only 50 medals may be distributed at any one time.

**Administration**

A commission composed of five ICRC representatives, including four Committee members.
10.4 CLARE BENEDICT FUND (in KCHF)

**BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2006**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2006</th>
<th>2005</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>ASSETS</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current assets</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Share of the overall capital of the special funds</td>
<td>2,004</td>
<td>2,056</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total assets</td>
<td>2,004</td>
<td>2,056</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>LIABILITIES AND RESERVES</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current liabilities</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International Committee of the Red Cross, current account</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total current liabilities</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Reserves</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Restricted reserves</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capital</td>
<td>1,633</td>
<td>1,633</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>UNRESTRICTED RESERVES</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General reserves</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balance brought forward</td>
<td>128</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Use of general reserves</td>
<td>-128</td>
<td>-23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Result for the year after attribution to the ICRC and transfers from/- to reserves</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Share of the overall provision for portfolio unrealized gains</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balance brought forward</td>
<td>294</td>
<td>212</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increase of unrealized gains during the year</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>337</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total unrestricted reserves</strong></td>
<td>370</td>
<td>422</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total reserves</strong></td>
<td>2,003</td>
<td>2,055</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total liabilities and reserves</strong></td>
<td>2,004</td>
<td>2,056</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2006**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2006</th>
<th>2005</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Income</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Share of net revenue from the overall capital of the special funds</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>129</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>129</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Expenditure</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Audit fees</td>
<td>-1</td>
<td>-1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>-1</td>
<td>-1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Result for the year before attribution to the ICRC and transfers from/- to reserves</strong></td>
<td>33</td>
<td>128</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Allocation to unrestricted reserves</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Use of unrestricted reserves</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General reserves</td>
<td>128</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Attribution to the International Committee of the Red Cross</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-128</td>
<td>-23</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Result for the year after attribution to the ICRC and transfers from/- to reserves</strong></td>
<td>33</td>
<td>128</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: the presentation of the 2005 use of the general reserves has been reclassified to conform to the presentation used in 2006.

**Establishment**
1 February 1968.

**Administration**
A commission composed of three persons appointed by the ICRC.

**Purpose**
The Fund’s income is attributed to assistance activities for the victims of armed conflicts, in accordance with Miss Benedict’s wishes.
### 10.5 Maurice de Madre French Fund (in KCHF)

#### Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2006

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2006</th>
<th>2005</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>ASSETS</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current assets</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Share of the overall capital of the special funds</td>
<td>5,235</td>
<td>5,180</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total assets</strong></td>
<td>5,235</td>
<td>5,180</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>LIABILITIES AND RESERVES</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current liabilities</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International Committee of the Red Cross, current account</td>
<td>233</td>
<td>173</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total current liabilities</strong></td>
<td>233</td>
<td>173</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Reserves</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Restricted Reserves</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donors’ restricted contributions</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balance brought forward</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Use during the year</td>
<td>-3</td>
<td>-15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Allocation during the year</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>UNRESTRICTED RESERVES</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capital</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balance brought forward</td>
<td>4,262</td>
<td>4,097</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Result for the year after transfers from/to reserves</td>
<td>-157</td>
<td>165</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Share of the overall provision for portfolio unrealized gains</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balance brought forward</td>
<td>742</td>
<td>559</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increase of unrealized gains during the year</td>
<td>140</td>
<td>882</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total unrestricted reserves</strong></td>
<td>4,987</td>
<td>5,004</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total reserves</strong></td>
<td>5,002</td>
<td>5,007</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total liabilities and reserves</strong></td>
<td>5,235</td>
<td>5,180</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Statement of Income and Expenditure for the Year Ended 31 December 2006

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2006</th>
<th>2005</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Income</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contributions</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Share of net revenue from the overall capital of the special funds</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>325</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>109</td>
<td>330</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Expenditure</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Allocations</td>
<td>-251</td>
<td>-172</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Audit fees</td>
<td>-2</td>
<td>-2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other expenses</td>
<td>-1</td>
<td>-3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>-254</td>
<td>-177</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Result for the year before transfers from/to reserves</strong></td>
<td>-145</td>
<td>153</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Allocation to unrestricted reserves</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Use of restricted reserves</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Use of donors’ restricted contributions</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Allocation to restricted reserves</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donors’ restricted contributions</td>
<td>-15</td>
<td>-3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Result for the year after transfers from/to reserves</strong></td>
<td>-157</td>
<td>165</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: the presentation of the 2005 donors’ restricted contributions reserves has been reclassified to conform to the presentation used in 2006.

Establishment
The Fund was set up in accordance with Count Maurice de Madre’s will and the ICRC Assembly’s decision of 19 December 1974.

Purpose
To assist temporary or permanent staff, such as first-aid workers, delegates and nurses, of international or national Red Cross or Red Crescent institutions who, in the course of their work or during war operations or natural disasters, have suffered injury and thereby find themselves in straitened circumstances or in reduced health.

In the event that the persons specified above should lose their lives in the course of the said humanitarian activities, payments may be made to their families.

Administration
A Board composed of five persons appointed by the ICRC, currently:
- two ICRC members or staff;
- one representative of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies;
- one representative of the de Madre family;
- one Swiss lawyer.

In 2006:
The Fund’s Board held its official annual meeting on 8 May; its Secretariat handled 79 files (consisting of 138 individual cases) on Movement staff.
## 10.6 Omar El Muktar Fund (in KCHF)

### Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2006

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2006</th>
<th>2005</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Assets</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current assets</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Share of the overall capital of the special funds</td>
<td>934</td>
<td>958</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total assets</strong></td>
<td>934</td>
<td>958</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Liabilities and Reserves</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current liabilities</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International Committee of the Red Cross, current account</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total current liabilities</strong></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reserves</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Restricted reserves</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capital</td>
<td>761</td>
<td>761</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unrestricted reserves</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General reserves</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balance brought forward</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Use of general reserves</td>
<td>-59</td>
<td>-10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Result for the year after attribution to the ICRC and transfers from/- to reserves</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Share of the overall provision for portfolio unrealized gains</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balance brought forward</td>
<td>137</td>
<td>98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increase of unrealized gains during the year</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total unrestricted reserves</strong></td>
<td>172</td>
<td>196</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total reserves</strong></td>
<td>933</td>
<td>957</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total liabilities and reserves</strong></td>
<td>934</td>
<td>958</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Statement of Income and Expenditure for the Year Ended 31 December 2006

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2006</th>
<th>2005</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Income</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Share of net revenue from the overall capital of the special funds</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>16</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Expenditure</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Audit fees</td>
<td>-1</td>
<td>-1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>-1</td>
<td>-1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Result for the year before attribution to the ICRC and transfers from/- to reserves</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Allocation to unrestricted reserves</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Use of unrestricted reserves</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General reserves</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attribution to the International Committee of the Red Cross</td>
<td>-59</td>
<td>-10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Result for the year after attribution to the ICRC and transfers from/- to reserves</strong></td>
<td>15</td>
<td>59</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: The presentation of the 2005 use of available funds has been reclassified to conform to the presentation used in 2006.

### Establishment

Pursuant to decision No. 5 of the Executive Board of 20 November 1980, adopted by the Committee in December 1980.

### Administration

A Board composed of three ICRC representatives.

### Purpose

A fund in dollars, made up of one or more donations by the authorities of the Socialist People’s Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, the income of which is to be used to finance the ICRC’s general assistance and protection activities.
## 10.7 PAUL REUTER FUND (in KCHF)

### BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2006

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2006</th>
<th>2005</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>ASSETS</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current assets</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Share of the overall capital of the special funds</td>
<td>659</td>
<td>627</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total assets</td>
<td>659</td>
<td>627</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>LIABILITIES AND RESERVES</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current liabilities</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International Committee of the Red Cross, current account</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total current liabilities</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unrestricted reserves</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Initial capital</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General reserves</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balance brought forward</td>
<td>325</td>
<td>297</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Result for the year after transfers from/- to reserves</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>326</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Share of the overall provision for portfolio unrealized gains</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balance brought forward</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increase of unrealized gains during the year</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>111</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total unrestricted reserves</td>
<td>637</td>
<td>615</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total liabilities and reserves</td>
<td>659</td>
<td>627</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2006

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2006</th>
<th>2005</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Income</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Share of net revenue from the overall capital of the special funds</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Expenditure</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Award of the 2006 Paul Reuter Prize</td>
<td>-5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Audit fees</td>
<td>-1</td>
<td>-1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Allocation to the Jean Pictet Competition</td>
<td></td>
<td>-10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other expenses</td>
<td>-4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>-10</td>
<td>-11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Result for the year before transfers from/- to reserves</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Allocation to unrestricted reserves</td>
<td></td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Result for the year after transfers from/- to reserves</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Establishment

Pursuant to decision No. 1 of the Executive Board of 6 January 1983.

### Purpose

The fund’s initial capital of CHF 200,000 donated by Prof. Paul Reuter (his Balzan prize) may be augmented by gifts or bequests. The fund’s purpose is to:

- use the income to encourage and promote knowledge and dissemination of international humanitarian law;
- and to that effect award a prize every two years to reward work, assist in the implementation of a project or make a publication possible.

### Administration

- a committee composed of one member of the ICRC, who is its chairman, and two members of the ICRC staff, appointed by the Directorate;
- two persons from outside the ICRC who, with the Committee members, shall make up the Paul Reuter prize jury.
## CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2006

### 10.8 ICRC SPECIAL FUND FOR THE DISABLED (in KCHF)

**Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2006**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2006</th>
<th>2005</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>ASSETS</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current assets</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash and cash equivalents</td>
<td>324</td>
<td>944</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Securities</td>
<td>4,555</td>
<td>3,873</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accounts receivable</td>
<td>642</td>
<td>538</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accrued interest</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total assets</strong></td>
<td>5,553</td>
<td>5,383</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>LIABILITIES AND RESERVES</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current liabilities</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International Committee of the Red Cross, current account</td>
<td>1,371</td>
<td>1,033</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expenses payable</td>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deferred income</td>
<td>173</td>
<td>310</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total current liabilities</strong></td>
<td>1,548</td>
<td>1,343</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Restricted reserves</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donors' restricted contributions</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balance brought forward</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Use for Albania project</td>
<td>-29</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Allocation to Albania project</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total restricted reserves</strong></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unrestricted reserves designated by the Board</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Initial capital</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>1,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provision for portfolio unrealized gains</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balance brought forward</td>
<td>492</td>
<td>581</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increase/-decrease of unrealized gains during the year</td>
<td>94</td>
<td>-89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General reserves</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balance brought forward</td>
<td>2,548</td>
<td>2,317</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Use for Ethiopia project</td>
<td>-30</td>
<td>-169</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Use for Bangladesh project</td>
<td>-73</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Use for Nicaragua project</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Result for the year after transfers from/-to reserves</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>2,418</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total unrestricted reserves</strong></td>
<td>4,004</td>
<td>4,040</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total reserves</strong></td>
<td>4,005</td>
<td>4,040</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total liabilities and reserves</strong></td>
<td>5,553</td>
<td>5,383</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operating activities</td>
<td>2006</td>
<td>2005</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------------------</td>
<td>------</td>
<td>------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Contributions received in cash</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Governments</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>462</td>
<td>462</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canada</td>
<td>83</td>
<td>83</td>
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<td>Liechtenstein</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Norway</td>
<td>530</td>
<td>576</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P. Leahy War Victims Fund/USAID</td>
<td>1,241</td>
<td>1,241</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Switzerland</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United States: International Trust Fund, PM/WRA</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>National Societies</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ireland</td>
<td>2</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Japan</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monaco</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Norway</td>
<td>121</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Switzerland</td>
<td>250</td>
<td>250</td>
</tr>
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<td>Turkey</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Private sources</strong></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>CR Machinery</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pro-Victims</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OPEC Fund for International Development</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- 2006 contributions</td>
<td>193</td>
<td>193</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Adjustment of 2005 contributions</td>
<td>-64</td>
<td>-64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ousseimi Foundation</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In memoriam J. Fournier</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Association of Former ICRC Delegates</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Municipality of Coppet</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Various donors</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Contributions received in services</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>National Societies</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>France</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canada</td>
<td>17</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total contributions</strong></td>
<td>2,316</td>
<td>1,171</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Operating expenditure</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash expenditure</td>
<td>-2,328</td>
<td>-1,286</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Services expenditure</td>
<td>-18</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total operating expenditure</strong></td>
<td>-2,346</td>
<td>-1,286</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Net result of operating activities</strong></td>
<td>-30</td>
<td>-115</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Non-operating activities</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Financial income</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Securities income</td>
<td>110</td>
<td>110</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bank interest</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Realized gains on securities</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Withholding taxes adjustment</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total financial income</strong></td>
<td>130</td>
<td>130</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Financial expenditure</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bank charges</td>
<td>-21</td>
<td>-21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Audit fees</td>
<td>-11</td>
<td>-11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foreign exchange losses, net</td>
<td>-63</td>
<td>-63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total financial expenditure</strong></td>
<td>-95</td>
<td>-95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Net result of non-operating activities</strong></td>
<td>35</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Result for the year before transfers from/to reserves</strong></td>
<td>-30</td>
<td>-115</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Establishment and initial objectives

The year 1981 was declared by the United Nations to be the “International Year for Disabled Persons”. The same year, when it met in Manila, the 24th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent adopted a resolution recommending that “a special fund be formed for the benefit of the disabled and to promote the implementation of durable projects to aid disabled persons”. Pursuant to the ICRC Assembly’s decision No. 2 of 19-20 October 1983 the Special Fund for the Disabled (SFD) was subsequently established. Its objectives were twofold:

- to help finance long-term projects for disabled persons, in particular the creation of workshops for the production of artificial limbs and orthotic appliances, and centres for rehabilitation and occupational retraining;
- to participate not only in ICRC and National Society projects, but also in those of other humanitarian bodies working in accordance with ICRC criteria.

Legal status

In January 2001, the ICRC Assembly converted the SFD into an independent foundation under Swiss law. The primary objectives of the “ICRC Special Fund for the Disabled” remained to a large extent unchanged, i.e. to ensure the continuity of ICRC programmes on behalf of the war-disabled and support physical rehabilitation centres in developing countries.

Although the SFD had become a more independent body, its programmes continued to be drawn up in accordance with ICRC operational policies in the countries concerned. However, the statutes of the new Foundation also allowed the opening of its Board to members of other organizations and the SFD developed its own independent fundraising and financial management structure.

Funding

In 1983, the ICRC donated an initial one million Swiss francs to set up the Special Fund for the Disabled. Further support is since given to the SFD by various governments, a number of National Societies and by private and public sources.

### STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2006 (CONT.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2006</th>
<th>2005</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ethiopia project</td>
<td>Viet Nam project</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Use of restricted reserves</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Use of donors’ restricted contributions for Albania project</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Use of donors’ restricted contributions for Viet Nam project</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Use of donors’ restricted contributions for Bangladesh project</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Use of unrestricted reserves</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Use of general reserves</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>115</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Allocation to restricted reserves</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donors’ restricted contributions</td>
<td>-1</td>
<td>-1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Allocation to unrestricted reserves</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Allocation to financial risk reserves</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Result for the year after transfers from/- to reserves</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## 11. COMPARATIVE BALANCE SHEET AND STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE LAST FIVE YEARS (in KCHF)

### Balance sheet

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Current assets</td>
<td>626,846</td>
<td>486,287</td>
<td>332,265</td>
<td>355,503</td>
<td>305,284</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-current assets</td>
<td>98,513</td>
<td>93,668</td>
<td>88,132</td>
<td>85,294</td>
<td>76,896</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total assets</strong></td>
<td>725,359</td>
<td>579,955</td>
<td>420,397</td>
<td>440,797</td>
<td>382,180</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liabilities</td>
<td>-361,517</td>
<td>-207,126</td>
<td>-120,427</td>
<td>-125,408</td>
<td>-128,308</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total net assets</strong></td>
<td>363,842</td>
<td>372,829</td>
<td>299,970</td>
<td>315,389</td>
<td>255,812</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Funds and foundations</td>
<td>15,785</td>
<td>14,462</td>
<td>11,987</td>
<td>10,630</td>
<td>9,293</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Funding of current operations</td>
<td>-21,976</td>
<td>22,998</td>
<td>-1,423</td>
<td>39,390</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unrestricted reserves designated by the Assembly</td>
<td>355,633</td>
<td>320,969</td>
<td>275,006</td>
<td>250,969</td>
<td>232,071</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other unrestricted reserves</td>
<td>14,400</td>
<td>14,400</td>
<td>14,400</td>
<td>14,400</td>
<td>14,400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total reserves (equities)</strong></td>
<td>363,842</td>
<td>372,829</td>
<td>299,970</td>
<td>315,389</td>
<td>255,812</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Income and expenditure statement

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Contributions</td>
<td>943,849</td>
<td>959,652</td>
<td>757,757</td>
<td>895,899</td>
<td>788,325</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operational expenditure</td>
<td>-964,124</td>
<td>-910,731</td>
<td>-782,211</td>
<td>-844,740</td>
<td>-781,703</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Operational result</strong></td>
<td>-20,275</td>
<td>48,921</td>
<td>-24,454</td>
<td>51,159</td>
<td>6,622</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net result of non-operational activities</td>
<td>11,288</td>
<td>23,938</td>
<td>9,035</td>
<td>8,418</td>
<td>-4,057</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Result for the year before transfers</strong></td>
<td>-8,987</td>
<td>72,859</td>
<td>-15,419</td>
<td>59,577</td>
<td>625</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administrative costs</td>
<td>86,541</td>
<td>84,446</td>
<td>85,034</td>
<td>84,274</td>
<td>86,440</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Ratios

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Equities in % of assets</td>
<td>50.2%</td>
<td>64.3%</td>
<td>71.4%</td>
<td>71.5%</td>
<td>66.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administrative costs in % of operational expenditure</td>
<td>9.0%</td>
<td>9.3%</td>
<td>10.9%</td>
<td>10.0%</td>
<td>11.1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
ASSEMBLY

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

Mr Jakob Kellenberger, President, Ph.D. from the University of Zurich, former Swiss Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs (1999), ICRC president since 2000.

Mr Olivier Vodoz, Vice-President, Bachelor of Law, barrister, former Deputy in the Geneva Grand Conseil and former President of the Conseil d’État of the Republic and Canton of Geneva (1998).


Mr Paolo Bernasconi, Bachelor of Law, barrister, professor of fiscal law and economic criminal law at the Universities of St. Gallen, Zurich and Milan (Bocconi), former Public Prosecutor in Lugano (1987).

Ms Susy Bruschweiler, nurse, former Director of the Swiss Red Cross College of Nursing in Aarau, CEO S-V Group (1988).

Mr Jacques Moreillon, Bachelor of Law, Doctor of Political Science, former Secretary General of the World Organization of the Scout Movement, former Director-General at the ICRC (1988).

Mr Daniel Thüerer, Master of Law (Cambridge), Doctor of Law, Professor at the University of Zurich (1991).


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 Law, former delegate and former Director of Operations at the ICRC (1998).

Mr Jean-Philippe Assal, Professor of Medicine, former head of the Division for Instruction in the Treatment of Chronic Diseases at the University of Geneva Faculty of Medicine (1999).

Mr Jean Abt, diplomas in agriculture and business, Lieutenant-General in the Swiss Army (retd.) (2001).

Mr Yves Sandoz, Doctor of Law, lecturer at the University of Geneva, former Director of International Humanitarian Law and Principles at the ICRC (2002).

Ms Claude Le Coultre, Professor at the University of Geneva Faculty of Medicine, Vice-dean in charge of humanitarian relations and cooperation with the countries of the South and East, Geneva University Hospital delegate for humanitarian affairs (2004).

Mrs Christine Beerli, lawyer, Managing Director of the Technical and Information Technology Departments of Bern University of Applied Sciences, former Senator (Swiss Council of States) (2005).

Ms Paola Ghillani, pharmacist from the University of Lausanne, certificate from the International Institute for Management Development (IMD) in Lausanne, businesswoman, former Director General of the Max Havelaar Foundation (Switzerland) (2005).

Mr Jenö Stachelin, Doctor of Law (University of Bern), former Ambassador of Switzerland (2006).
Honorary members: Mr Peter Arbenz, Mr Jean-François Aubert, Mrs Denise Bindschedler-Robert, Mr Georges-André Cuendet, Mr Max Daetwyler, Mr Josef Feldmann, Mr Athos Gallino, Mrs Renée Guisan, Mr Rodolphe de Haller, Mr Pierre Keller, Mrs Liselotte Kraus-Gurny, Mr Pierre Languetin, Mr Jakob Nüesch, Mr Richard Pestalozzi, Ms Francesca Pometta, Mr Eric Roethlisberger, Mr Dietrich Schindler, Mr Cornelio Sommaruga, Ms Anne Petitpierre, Mr Ernst Brugger.

ASSEMBLY COUNCIL

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

Mr Jakob Kellenberger, President
Mr Jacques Forster, permanent Vice-President
Mr Jean Abt, member of the Committee
Mr Jean de Courten, member of the Committee
Mr Jacques Moreillon, member of the Committee

PRESIDENCY

The Presidency is composed of the president, one permanent vice-president and one non-permanent vice-president. The president of the ICRC has primary responsibility for the organization’s external relations. As president of the Assembly and of the Assembly Council, he ensures that the spheres of competence of these two bodies are safeguarded. The president maintains a standing dialogue with the Directorate on all activities conducted by the ICRC.

COMMISSIONS AND BODIES APPOINTED BY THE ASSEMBLY

Control Commission
The Control Commission is composed of five members of the International Committee who are not members of the Assembly Council. It assists the Assembly in overseeing the work of the organization. It controls the implementation of Assembly decisions and ensures that ICRC activities are conducted efficiently. The Commission reviews the reports of the external and internal auditors, and monitors implementation of the audit recommendations. It meets six to eight times per year.

Recruitment Commission
The Recruitment Commission is composed of members of the International Committee. It handles matters relating to the Committee’s composition and submits proposals to the Assembly for the co-optation of new members.

Remuneration Commission
Chaired by the president of the Control Commission, the Remuneration Commission is composed of three members of the International Committee. It sets the salaries and benefits of the president, the permanent vice-president, the directors and the head of Internal Audit.

Internal Audit
The Internal Audit helps the ICRC to accomplish its objectives by using a systematic, disciplined approach to evaluate and improve the effectiveness of risk management, control and governance processes. The Internal Audit reports its findings directly to the president and the Control Commission, and issues recommendations to management. The head of Internal Audit is appointed by the Assembly.

External Audit
The Assembly appoints the external auditors for the ICRC’s financial statements. The external auditors report their audit opinion to the Assembly and prepare a management letter addressed to the Directorate.

DIRECTORATE

The Directorate is the executive body of the ICRC, responsible for applying and ensuring implementation of the general objectives and institutional strategy defined by the Assembly or the Assembly Council. The Directorate is also responsible for the smooth running of the ICRC and for the efficiency of its staff as a whole.

The director-general sets the administration’s general priorities, directs the decision-making process and supervises the implementation of the decisions taken. The director-general is accountable to the Presidency and the Assembly as regards the Directorate’s objectives and activities and the results achieved.

Mr Angelo Gnaedinger, Director-General
Mr Yves Daccord, Director of Communication
Mr Pierre Krähenbühl, Director of Operations
Ms Doris Pfister, Director of Resources and Operational Support
Mr Philip Spoerri, Director for International Law and Cooperation within the Movement
Mr Jacques Stroun, Director of Human Resources.
ADVISERS FOR THE PERIOD 2004–2007
(6TH GROUP)

The purpose of the Group of International Advisers, set up by the ICRC for a four-year period to provide it with counsel and support in its activities and policy decisions, is to seek appropriate ways to enhance respect for IHL in armed conflicts, to help the ICRC better understand and deal with the political issues it encounters in carrying out its mandate and to assist it in analysing the environment for humanitarian endeavour.

The 2004–2007 Group follows on five previous groups of advisers that have assisted the ICRC since 1984. It meets twice a year for confidential discussions with the ICRC leadership and is composed of twelve people with confirmed international experience:

- Professor Ridwan AL-SAYYID (Lebanon)
- Mr Jayantha DHANAPALA (Sri Lanka)
- Ms Bineta DIOP (Senegal)
- Mr Bronislaw GEREMEK (Poland)
- Brigadier Titus Kamau GITHIORA (Kenya)
- Mr Andrey A. KOKOSHIN (Russian Federation)
- Professor Djamchid MOMTAZ (Islamic Republic of Iran)
- Mr George E. MOOSE (USA)
- Ms Sadako OGATA (Japan)
- Professor Paulo Sérgio PINHEIRO (Brazil)
- Mr Ahmed RASHID (Pakistan)
- General (Retired) Sir Rupert A. SMITH (United Kingdom)

During 2006, the Group met in March and in August with members of the International Committee and of the Directorate. The following topics were discussed:

- The general trends in international relations in 2006 and their implications for the armed conflicts and other situations of violence in which the ICRC was operating.
- The humanitarian situation in Lebanon following the outbreak of intense hostilities during the summer; the way the various belligerents and their actions were being perceived, and the implications for the broader context.
- The changes in warfare strategies, starting with the paradigmatic shift from industrial warfare to war amongst the people, as identified in Sir Rupert Smith’s book, The Utility of Force; the implications for the ICRC’s neutrality; the dilemma between maintaining order and security and establishing justice.
- The involvement of the European Union in crisis management: development, trends, achievements and priorities; the increasing overlap between the operations and mandates of the European Union and NATO, and cooperation between the two institutions.
- The plague of interpersonal violence in Latin America; its root causes in the widening social and economic gap, the lack of trust in the region’s State institutions, the widespread access to fire arms and the links with criminal networks; the ICRC’s added value in contexts in the region where IHL is not applicable.
- The ICRC’s response to the South Asian earthquake; coordination between the ICRC and other organizations and with the Pakistani government; the issue of civilian versus military control of relief efforts; the ICRC’s possible involvement in emergency-response capacity building in regions where it has operations.
- The steadily growing phenomenon of migration, with a special focus on forced migration; the mandates of the various organizations tackling this problem; the ways the ICRC should address the humanitarian consequences of forced migration, directly and in the framework of the Movement, most notably with regard to detention and people who go missing.
- The growing competition for economic and industrial resources; the risk that this will spawn tension or conflict versus opportunities for closer inter-State cooperation and ties.
- Specific aspects of United Nations reform.
- The adoption by States of Additional Protocol III providing for an additional distinctive emblem, the red crystal.

The comments and suggestions made during these meetings provided valuable input for the ICRC’s planning and policy-making process. The Group acted as a sounding board during the preparation of the ICRC’s institutional strategy for 2007–2010.
The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement is made up of the National Societies, the ICRC and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. Although each of the Movement’s components engages in different activities, they are all united by the same Fundamental Principles: humanity, impartiality, neutrality, independence, voluntary service, unity and universality.

As the founding institution of the Movement, the ICRC has certain statutory responsibilities towards the other components. In particular, it is responsible for ensuring respect for and promoting knowledge of the Fundamental Principles, recognizing new National Red Cross or Red Crescent Societies which meet the current conditions for recognition, and discharging the mandates entrusted to it by the International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent. The ICRC is actively involved in the organization of the Council of Delegates and the International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent.

National Societies in their own country and the ICRC both have the mandate to assist the victims of armed conflicts. National Societies are the main operational partners of the ICRC, particularly in the fields of relief assistance and re-establishment of family links.

While fully respecting the International Federation’s competence in the matter, the ICRC contributes to the development of National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in the following areas:

- disseminating knowledge of international humanitarian law and the Fundamental Principles;
- involvement of National Societies in measures taken to promote international humanitarian law and ensure its implementation;
- preparation of the National Societies for their activities in the event of armed conflict, internal strife and other situations of violence;
- re-establishment of family links;
- mine action;
- technical and legal assistance in establishing and reconstituting National Societies;
- revision of National Society statutes, together with the International Federation;
- supporting National Societies in their efforts to adhere at all times to the Fundamental Principles, together with the International Federation.

Finally, the ICRC acts as lead agency, coordinating the 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.
The work of the ICRC is based on the four Geneva Conventions of 1949, their two Additional Protocols of 1977 and Additional Protocol III of 2005, the Statutes of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, and the resolutions of the International Conferences of the Red Cross and Red Crescent. The ICRC’s mission is to provide the victims of armed conflict with protection and assistance. To that end, the ICRC takes direct and immediate action in response to emergency situations, while at the same time promoting preventive measures, such as the dissemination and national implementation of international humanitarian law.

It was on the ICRC’s initiative that States adopted the original Geneva Convention of 1864. Since then, the ICRC, with the support of the entire Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, has put constant pressure on governments to adapt international humanitarian law to changing circumstances, in particular to modern developments in the means and methods of warfare, so as to provide more effective protection and assistance for conflict victims.

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

Over three-quarters of all States are currently party to the two Protocols additional to the Geneva Conventions. Protocol I protects the victims of international armed conflicts, while Protocol II protects the victims of non-international armed conflicts. These instruments have in particular codified the rules protecting the civilian population against the effects of hostilities.

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

- The four Geneva Conventions and Additional Protocol I confer on the ICRC a specific mandate to act in the event of international armed conflict. In particular, the ICRC has the right to visit prisoners of war and civilian internees. The Conventions also give the ICRC a broad right of initiative.

- In situations of armed conflict that are not international in character, the ICRC enjoys a right of humanitarian initiative recognized by the international community and enshrined in Article 3 common to the four Geneva Conventions.

- In the event of internal disturbances and tensions, and in any other situation that warrants humanitarian action, the ICRC also enjoys a right of initiative, which is affirmed and recognized in the Statutes of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. Thus, wherever international humanitarian law does not apply, the ICRC may offer its services to governments without that offer constituting interference in the internal affairs of the State concerned.

**UNIVERSAL ACCEPTANCE OF THE GENEVA CONVENTIONS AND THEIR ADDITIONAL PROTOCOLS**

All of the world’s 194 States are now party to the four 1949 Geneva Conventions, following the accession of Nauru and Montenegro in 2006. Furthermore, during the year, Haiti, Montenegro, Nauru and Sudan acceded to Protocols I and II additional to the Geneva Conventions. This brought the number of States party to Additional Protocol I and Additional Protocol II to 167 and 163 respectively. Bulgaria, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, the Netherlands, the Philippines and Switzerland ratified Additional Protocol III.

By 2006, 68 States were party to Article 90 of Additional Protocol I which provides for the establishment of an International Fact-Finding Commission to enquire into allegations of serious violations of humanitarian law.
This map shows which States were party to the 1949 Geneva Conventions and to their 1977 Additional Protocols, as at 31 December 2006. 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: 194

States party to the 1949 Geneva Conventions and to 1977 Additional Protocol I: 167

States party to the 1949 Geneva Conventions and to 1977 Additional Protocol II: 163

States party to the 1949 Geneva Conventions and to both 1977 Additional Protocols: 161

States party to the 1949 Geneva Conventions and to 2005 Additional Protocol III: 9

States having made the declaration under Article 90 of 1977 Additional Protocol I: 68
ABBREVIATIONS

R/A/S = Ratification: a treaty is generally open for signature for a certain time following the conference which has adopted it. However, a signature is not binding on a State unless it has been endorsed by ratification. The time limits having elapsed, the Conventions and the Protocols are no longer open for signature. The States which have not signed them may at any time accede or, in the appropriate circumstances, succeed to them.

Accession: instead of signing and then ratifying a treaty, a State may become party to it by the single act called accession.

Succession (declaration of): a newly independent State may declare that it will abide by a treaty which was applicable to it prior to its independence. A State may also declare that it will provisionally abide by such treaties during the time it deems necessary to examine their texts carefully and to decide on accession or succession to some or all of the said treaties (declaration of provisional application of the treaties). At present no State is bound by such a declaration.

R/D = Reservation/Declaration: unilateral statement, however phrased or named, made by a State when ratifying, acceding or succeeding to a treaty, whereby it purports to exclude or to modify the legal effect of certain provisions of the treaty in their application to that State (provided that such reservations are not incompatible with the object and purpose of the treaty).

D90 = Declaration provided for under article 90 of Protocol I (prior acceptance of the competence of the International Fact-Finding Commission).

DATES

The dates indicated are those on which the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs received the official instrument from the State that was ratifying, acceding or succeeding to the Conventions or Protocols or accepting the competence of the Commission provided for under Article 90 of Protocol I. They thus represent neither the date on which ratification, accession, succession or acceptance of the Commission was decided upon by the State concerned nor that on which the corresponding instrument was sent.

N.B.: The dates given for succession to the Geneva Conventions by THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO, THE REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO, JAMAICA, MADAGASCAR, MAURITANIA, NIGER, NIGERIA, RWANDA, SENEGAL, and SIERRA LEONE used to be those on which the corresponding instruments had been officially adopted. They have now been replaced by the dates on which the depositary received those instruments.

ENTRY INTO FORCE

Except as mentioned in footnotes at the end of the tables, for all States the entry into force of the Conventions and of the Protocols occurs six months after the date given in the present document; for States which have made a declaration of succession, entry into force takes place retroactively, on the day of their accession to independence. The 1949 Geneva Conventions entered into force on 21 October 1950. The 1977 Protocols entered into force on 7 December 1978. The 2005 Additional Protocol III entered into force on 14 January 2007.

NAMES OF COUNTRIES

The names of countries given in the following list may differ from the official names of States.

UPDATE SINCE 31.12.2005

Ratifications, accessions or successions to the four Geneva Conventions:

- Montenegro 02.08.2006
- Nauru 27.06.2006

Ratifications, accessions or successions to 1977 Additional Protocol I:

- Haiti 20.12.2006
- Montenegro 02.08.2006
- Nauru 27.06.2006
- Sudan 07.03.2006

Ratifications, accessions or successions to 1977 Additional Protocol II:

- Haiti 20.12.2006
- Montenegro 02.08.2006
- Nauru 27.06.2006
- Sudan 13.07.2006

Ratifications, accessions or successions to 2005 Additional Protocol III:

- Bulgaria 13.09.2006
- Honduras 08.12.2006
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TOTALS

Number of States Parties to the Geneva Conventions of 1949: 194
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Number of States having made the declaration under Article 90: 68
Number of States Parties to the 1977 Additional Protocol II: 163
Number of States Parties to the 2005 Additional Protocol III: 9
Number of States Members of the United Nations: 192
States Parties to the Geneva Conventions but not members of the United Nations: COOK ISLANDS and HOLY SEE.
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STATES PARTY TO THE GENEVA CONVENTIONS AND THEIR ADDITIONAL PROTOCOLS (cont.)

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NOTES

Djibouti
Djibouti’s declaration of succession in respect of the First Convention was dated 26.01.1978.

France
On accession to Protocol II, France made a communication concerning Protocol I.

Ghana

Namibia
An instrument of accession to the Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols was deposited by the United Nations Council for Namibia on 18.10.1983. In an instrument deposited on 22.08.1991, Namibia declared its succession to the Geneva Conventions, which were previously applicable pursuant to South Africa’s accession on 31.03.1952.

Niue
Pursuant to New Zealand law at the time of accession, and consistent with customary international law, the Geneva Conventions apply to Niue by virtue of New Zealand’s accession, on 02.05.1959, to the four 1949 Geneva Conventions.

Palestine
On 21.06.1989, 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 04.05.1989, to adhere to the Four Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 and the two Protocols additional thereto”.

On 13.09.1989, the Swiss Federal Council informed the States that it was not in a position to decide whether the letter constituted an instrument of accession, "due to the uncertainty within the international community as to the existence or non-existence of a State of Palestine".

Philippines
The First Geneva Convention was ratified on 07.03.1951.

Republic of Korea

Sri Lanka
Accession to the Fourth Geneva Convention on 23.02.1959 (Ceylon had signed only the First, Second, and Third Conventions).

Switzerland

Trinidad and Tobago
Accession to the First Geneva Convention on 17.03.1963.
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.