



chad

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.

EXPENDITURE (IN KCHF)

Protection	3,833
Assistance	6,332
Prevention	1,142
Cooperation with National Societies	323
General	-

► **11,629**

of which: Overheads 700

IMPLEMENTATION RATE

Expenditure/yearly budget	135%
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PERSONNEL

25 expatriates
107 national staff (daily workers not included)

KEY POINTS

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.

CONTEXT

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.

MAIN FIGURES AND INDICATORS

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses)		CIVILIANS AND PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM		
Detainees visited	2,615	<i>Economic security, water and habitat</i>		
Detainees visited and monitored individually	841	Food	Beneficiaries	474
Number of visits carried out	140	Essential household items	Beneficiaries	29,165
Number of places of detention visited	71	Agricultural inputs and micro-economic initiatives	Beneficiaries	25,020
RESTORING FAMILY LINKS		Water supply schemes and sanitation systems (completed projects)	Beneficiaries	30,000
<i>Red Cross messages (RCMs) and reunifications</i>		Habitat structures	Beneficiaries	477
RCMs collected	7,404	<i>Health</i>		
RCMs distributed	4,410	Health centres supported	Structures	4
People reunited with their families	30	WOUNDED AND SICK		
<i>Tracing requests, including cases of missing persons</i>		Hospitals supported	Structures	3
People for whom a tracing request was newly registered	92	Admissions	Patients	592
Tracing requests closed positively (persons located)	121	Operations	Operations performed	359
Tracing requests still being handled at 31 December 2006	319	<i>Physical rehabilitation</i>		
<i>Unaccompanied minors (UAMs) and separated children (SCs), including unaccompanied demobilized child soldiers</i>		Patients receiving services	Patients	1,670
UAMs/SCs newly registered by the ICRC	178	Prostheses delivered	Pieces	225
UAMs/SCs reunited with their families by the ICRC	28	Orthoses delivered	Pieces	210
UAMs/SCs cases still being handled at 31 December 2006	554			
DOCUMENTS ISSUED				
People to whom travel documents were issued	33			

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 and weapon bearers, 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 fulfil 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 Assounga 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, jerrycans, 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 Adré, 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.

Armed opposition groups were also briefed on the ICRC's detention-related activities and offered the organization's services to visit any detainees they were holding.

On 18 March, the prefect of the eastern Chadian border town of Guéréda, who had been abducted to Sudan in February, was released and repatriated, with the ICRC acting as a neutral intermediary.

- ▶ 2,615 detainees visited, 841 of them monitored individually (1 female, 39 minors), including 772 newly registered (1 female, 39 minors), during 140 visits to 71 places of detention
- ▶ 239 RCMs collected from and 57 RCMs distributed to detainees

Improving detention conditions

Detention facilities in N'Djamena were unable to cope with the influx of some 350 people held in connection with the 13 April attack on the capital. Exceptionally, the detainees were provided with food by the ICRC, as well as essential items such as cooking pots, shoes, bedding and cleaning materials. About 100 captured fighters who had been wounded were treated at the Military Teaching Hospital, with the delegation providing medical supplies and monitoring their care. On the basis of ICRC recommendations, the authorities took over the provision of food in July, but in December the ICRC had to step in again with urgent nutritional assistance for the detainees.

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 Adré, 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 in October 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 758 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.

ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

After the ICRC had officially informed the Chadian government of its qualification of the situation in the country as a non-international armed conflict, the armed forces chief of staff issued an order to all commanding officers reminding them of the IHL rules applicable, including Article 3 common to the 1949 Geneva Conventions, Additional Protocol II, to which Chad is party, and pertinent customary law.

All 12 of Chad's armed forces training centres taught IHL, supported by the Defence Ministry's IHL reference centre, but the subject was not included systematically in training for the rank and file.

- 25 members of the *gendarmerie*, national police and special security forces trained as IHL unit instructors during a two-week course
- Chad's first-ever national military IHL-instruction manual produced, and all armed forces training centres provided with copies (500 in total)
- 55 members of the Abéché military brigade participated in an IHL session
- the Defence Ministry's IHL reference centre and training institutions provided with materials and technical advice on developing IHL courses
- armed forces officers in charge of units in eastern Chad and members of armed groups briefed on IHL in bilateral discussions

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.