



ethiopia

The ICRC has been continuously present in Ethiopia since 1977. It focuses on meeting the needs of people detained, displaced or otherwise affected by the 1998–2000 war with Eritrea or internal violence, needs which are often aggravated by adverse climatic conditions. The ICRC provides emergency aid, as well as medium-term assistance through water, health, agricultural and veterinary projects to preserve the livelihoods of vulnerable communities. It supports physical rehabilitation services for war amputees and other disabled people, restores family links, promotes IHL within the government and armed forces and supports the Ethiopian Red Cross Society.

EXPENDITURE IN CHF

Protection

5,458,661

Assistance

15,076,960

Preventive action

2,535,333

Cooperation with National Societies

1,397,927

General

115,608

► **24,584,489**

of which: Overheads **1,338,971**

PERSONNEL

67 expatriates

332 national staff

KEY POINTS IN 2004

- To help communities in violence-prone regions preserve their livelihoods, the ICRC treated thousands of animals against disease and delivered seed in the drought-hit SNRS, and launched a five-year assistance programme in southern Afar.
- The ICRC was the only international organization able to get staff and relief goods into Gambella for victims of the violence.
- The ICRC monitored the individual cases of 2,900 detainees in some 250 detention facilities countrywide and worked with the authorities on developing an internationally funded prison-reform programme.
- 5 ICRC-supported physical rehabilitation centres delivered over 4,000 prosthetic/orthotic appliances, 25% of them for mine victims.
- 798 civilians were voluntarily repatriated to Ethiopia or Eritrea under ICRC auspices; some 24,000 RCMs were delivered in Ethiopia; and the tracing and RCM services were extended to Sudanese refugee camps.
- With ICRC support, the armed forces incorporated IHL into their training.

CONTEXT

The physical mapping out of the new border between Eritrea and Ethiopia remained on hold for the second consecutive year.

Several million Ethiopians remained chronically dependent on food aid. Hundreds of thousands more faced food shortages as a prolonged drought in the east and south killed crops and dried up wells. The rains finally arrived in October in most parts of the country, raising prospects for a good harvest in January.

The more remote areas of Ethiopia remained prone to internal tensions, usually springing from a mix of ethnic and political grievances. Armed opposition groups continued to operate in Oromia and the Somali National Regional State (SNRS), and a referendum in October on border changes between the two regions heightened tensions. Oromia was also unsettled by a wave of student demonstrations earlier in the year. In Gambella, the violence that broke out in late 2003 continued sporadically. Clashes also occurred in Afar, disrupting lives but rarely claiming civilian casualties.

Ethiopian Prime Minister Meles Zenawi announced that a general election would go ahead as planned in May 2005 and invited international observers to monitor the process.

ICRC ACTION

The ICRC monitored violence-prone regions and stood ready to provide emergency aid. It opened a sub-delegation in Gambella and was the only international organization able to get relief goods into the region for victims of the violence.

In the SNRS, the ICRC ran medium-term integrated assistance programmes (a combination of water, health, agricultural and veterinary projects) to help vulnerable farmers and nomads preserve their livelihoods and avoid dependence on aid. The prolonged drought in parts of the SNRS required emergency action. The ICRC treated hundreds of thousands of weakened animals against disease, provided seed to farmers and, for the first time, used destocking (buying and slaughtering healthy but weakened livestock and distributing the meat to needy families). In southern Afar (zone 3) – another area prone to drought and clashes – the ICRC launched an integrated assistance programme focusing on improving access to water and basic health care. Smaller assistance projects, mainly to improve water points, were ongoing in the drought-stricken eastern Hararghe region.

The ICRC visited prisons and police stations countrywide, following up the individual cases of some 2,900 detainees and providing the authorities with confidential feedback on detention conditions. It improved water and sanitation facilities in prisons, conducted workshops for prison personnel on detention standards and worked closely with government officials and the new Federal Prison Commission on developing an internationally funded prison-reform programme.

In relation to the 1998–2000 war between Eritrea and Ethiopia, the ICRC followed up any remaining cases of POWs with the authorities, in accordance with the Geneva Conventions. It assisted in the voluntary repatriation of civilians to Eritrea and Ethiopia. It also ran the tracing and Red Cross message (RCM) service, which was the sole means of cross-border communication for thousands of dispersed families, and reunited vulnerable people with relatives across the closed border. In the war-damaged region of Tigray, the ICRC rebuilt a town water system and health centre and rehabilitated rural water points. To treat war amputees and other disabled people, the ICRC supported five physical rehabilitation centres.

The ICRC extended the tracing and RCM network to Sudanese refugees in camps in western Ethiopia. The priority was to restore contact between child refugees and their parents.

Programmes to promote international humanitarian law (IHL) remained a cornerstone of ICRC operations in Ethiopia. With ICRC support, the armed forces incorporated IHL into their training, Addis Ababa University began an IHL course for law students, and plans progressed to introduce the Exploring Humanitarian Law programme in secondary schools.

The Ethiopian Red Cross Society received substantial ICRC support to reinforce its ambulance service and tracing, assistance, communication and mine-action programmes and to strengthen the capacities of its headquarters and branches in regions prone to disturbances.

CIVILIANS

Emergency aid for victims of armed violence

To aid victims of the clashes in Gambella in the first half of 2004, the ICRC sent in staff and relief goods to the remote region. Together with the Ethiopian Red Cross, it evacuated the wounded, delivered medical supplies to hospitals and clinics and distributed shelter materials and essential household items to some 25,000 victims of the violence. Towards the end of the year the ICRC provided medical supplies to Mieso health clinic (Shinile zone, SNRS) to treat people displaced by ethnic clashes over border changes between the SNRS and Oromia.

Preserving livelihoods in the SNRS

In the SNRS, the ICRC continued to run medium-term, integrated assistance programmes designed to help vulnerable nomads and farmers preserve their livelihoods and avoid dependence on aid.

In August the ICRC handed over its health project, initiated in 1997, to the Ministry of Health and the communities involved. The project trained 33 village women to provide basic health care and hygiene education in the Afder zone, which had no medical facilities. Prior to the handover, the ICRC held refresher courses for the women. It also discussed with the women and village elders the new system of receiving medical supplies from four government health clinics instead of the ICRC, and provided

the clinics with a six-month supply of drugs and training in stock management.

The ICRC ran a variety of projects to help farmers manage their water resources more efficiently and so increase agricultural yields. The main beneficiaries were cooperatives farming the fertile land along the Shebele river in the Gode, Afder and Fik zones. The ICRC repaired or upgraded water catchments, mainly *berkad* (traditional sub-surface reservoirs), which fed irrigation pumps, and dug or repaired wells and *berkad* to provide clean water for farmers, nomads and their livestock. It also ran food-for-work projects: 17 cooperatives received oil and tools in return for their labour in rehabilitating dams, dykes and irrigation channels that regulated crop irrigation and prevented soil erosion and flooding during heavy seasonal rains. Some 40 cooperatives received 11,000 fruit and neem saplings. The trees would provide an extra source of food or income, cut down on soil erosion and protect crops, and the ground neem seeds could be spread as a natural and free crop pesticide.

The ICRC carried out two, large-scale emergency actions in parts of the SNRS where a prolonged drought was threatening the livelihoods of thousands of nomads and farmers. To prevent more livestock from dying, it provided the drugs and trained and supervised local veterinary assistants, who treated some 350,000 animals between February and March and 450,000 between September and October in the Gode, Degah Bur and Fik zones. The health and productivity of the animals improved immediately. During the first action, the ICRC, in a pilot project, used destocking for the first time in Ethiopia: it bought and slaughtered 463 weakened but healthy cattle and sheep and distributed the meat to 11,646 displaced people (around 2,000 families). The technique provided much-needed income for livestock owners and food for IDPs. The ICRC also distributed seeds in the Degah Bur zone to farmers whose crops had failed (some 7,000 families in the first action and 6,200 in the second).

Launching integrated aid projects in Afar

Working with the authorities, the ICRC launched a five-year integrated assistance programme in Boromodaitu district in southern Afar (zone 3). It had identified the need for assistance in this district during its drought-relief operation in 2003. Ethnic tensions in the district had sharpened over scarce water and pasture, health services were limited (two posts for 44,000 people)

and no other international organization was working there.

The ICRC, the Afar Pastoralist Development Association and the Ministry of Health co-organized a three-month literacy course followed by a three-month medical course to train 12 community health workers and 11 traditional birth attendants. When the 23 participants graduated in October, the ICRC provided them with medical starter kits and they began working in seven of Boromodaitu's 15 sub-districts. To ensure the project was sustainable, the communities agreed that patients would pay for their treatment and the fees would be used to cover incentives for the workers and to purchase medical supplies from Health Ministry clinics at prices acceptable to the communities and the ICRC. The ICRC also set up and trained committees in all seven sub-districts to support and monitor the project and provide health education. To promote hygiene, the ICRC and communities together produced posters adapted to the local culture.

The ICRC initiated small-scale projects in Boromodaitu district to improve agricultural techniques and diversify sources of food and income. It provided two women's cooperatives with seeds, saplings, tools and training to start vegetable gardens and orchards and was helping a farming cooperative along the Awash river to modernize its irrigation methods. It was also working with a local research centre and communities on projects to regenerate natural grasses and increase fodder production.

To improve access to clean water, the ICRC dug wells, but the water was often too saline to drink. As an alternative, the organization designed a cheap and simple filter that households used to purify river or other surface water.

Restoring livelihoods in Tigray

In war-damaged northern Tigray, the ICRC, in cooperation with the authorities, rebuilt the health-care centre in Fazi and the town water-supply system in Zalambessa. With the new facility up and running, the ICRC stopped trucking in water to Zalambessa in June, a service that it had provided daily since September 2003 for some 12,000 people who had returned to the town since the cessation of hostilities. Some 20 smaller projects to construct or upgrade water points and systems were completed in the Gulumekeda and Erob districts of Tigray.

The ICRC organized three-month sewing courses for 40 women who had returned to

Tigray from Eritrea and were supporting their families, and gave them sewing machines and materials so they could generate an income.

Improving access to water for 2003 drought victims

During its 2003 emergency drought-relief action, the ICRC identified inadequate water and sanitation facilities as a main factor contributing to the beneficiaries' chronic poverty and vulnerability. The ICRC therefore initiated projects to improve these facilities in the Gursum and Babile districts of eastern Hararghe, a region of Oromia still suffering from drought. With community participation, the ICRC dug or repaired wells and equipped them with hand pumps, constructed water catchments, built latrines and formed and trained local committees to maintain the facilities and promote hygiene.

- 25,428 people received essential household items
- 293,245 people benefited from agricultural, veterinary and food-for-work projects
- 62 water or habitat projects completed or ongoing, benefiting some 195,000 people, including 52,000 IDPs

Repatriation

The ICRC, with the support of the National Society, assisted in the voluntary repatriation of people of Eritrean and Ethiopian origin, providing transport and basic supplies for the trip and short stay in a transit camp. It also helped them contact their families and retrieved and forwarded their official documents, mainly education certificates, so that they could continue their studies or apply for work. The ICRC monitored the living conditions of Eritrean nationals still in Ethiopia and covered the medical fees of vulnerable people registered for repatriation.

Restoring family links

Thousands of people in Ethiopia and Eritrea continued to rely on the tracing and RCM services to communicate with their relatives across the closed border. When requested, the ICRC reunited children and elderly, sick or destitute people with relatives across the border who could care for them.

The tracing and RCM services were also used in Ethiopia by refugees and by families dispersed by internal violence. The ICRC, together with the Ethiopian Red Cross, extended the RCM network to four of the five Sudanese refugee camps in western Ethiopia (Bonga, Fugnido and Dima in

Gambella and Sherkole in Benishangul-Gumuz). The priority was to restore contact between child refugees and their parents. By year's end, the ICRC had located, interviewed and registered 456 such children and was working on 661 requests to trace their relatives. This programme was coordinated with UNHCR, child-protection agencies and the Ethiopian Administration for Refugee and Returnee Affairs.

For relatives separated by the 1998–2000 Eritrea-Ethiopia conflict:

- 174 civilians voluntarily repatriated from Ethiopia to Eritrea and 624 from Eritrea to Ethiopia;
- 63 people, including 53 children, reunited with relatives in Eritrea and 47, including 35 children, with relatives in Ethiopia;
- 15,469 RCMs delivered in Ethiopia and 20,741 collected for delivery in Eritrea;
- 18 documents forwarded from Eritrea to Ethiopia and 93 from Ethiopia to Eritrea.

For refugees and dispersed Ethiopian families:

- 8,462 RCMs delivered;
- 456 children separated from their parents registered.

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

In November 2002 the Ethiopian authorities released the last POWs and civilian internees of Eritrean origin regularly visited by the ICRC, and the majority were repatriated under ICRC auspices. The ICRC maintained a dialogue with the authorities concerning individual cases pending, in accordance with the Geneva Conventions.

The ICRC visited detention facilities countrywide, mainly prisons and police stations, to monitor the treatment and living conditions of detainees held in connection with the change of government in 1991 or on grounds of State security. It reported its findings, in confidence, to the authorities.

The ICRC offered the RCM service to prison inmates so they could communicate with their families. To maintain basic health standards, it built or repaired prison water and sanitation systems and separate accommodation areas for women, provided medical treatment and distributed medical and hygiene supplies. In Tigray, the ICRC helped the 10 prisons in the region set up systems to record detainees' medical

histories and manage medical stocks. In other new initiatives, it began replacing wood-burning cookers in prison kitchens with cheaper and more environmentally friendly kerosene stoves and assisted 18 prisons in the Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples Regional State (SNNPRS) in growing fruit trees to increase inmates' vitamin intake.

- ▶ 71,659 detainees visited (including 1,191 newly registered and 2,972 followed up individually) in 248 places of detention during 417 visits
- ▶ 654 detention certificates issued
- ▶ 1,291 RCMs distributed to detainees and 1,638 collected for distribution to relatives
- ▶ water, sanitation and habitat projects completed in 27 prisons, benefiting some 20,000 detainees

Supporting prison reform

The Ethiopian government, with international donor support, was reforming its judicial and penal systems. To support this process, the ICRC arranged for three representatives of Ethiopia's Ministry of Federal Affairs and new Federal Prison Commission to visit prisons and the training centre for prison staff in Switzerland. Under ICRC auspices, an expert from the Swiss centre then visited Ethiopia and discussed with the authorities the new training curriculum for prison personnel. In October in Addis Ababa, the ICRC and Penal Reform International organized a round-table to discuss alternatives to prison sentences, such as community work, to tackle overcrowding in detention facilities. Participants included specialists from Uganda, Kenya and Switzerland and representatives of Ethiopia's government, judiciary, prisons and police. At the authorities' request, the ICRC also commented on draft prison-reform documents. In addition, it held a series of one- to four-day workshops on detention standards and judicial guarantees. These were attended by the head of the Federal Prison Commission, the directors of the six federal prisons, personnel working in prisons in Tigray, Benishangul-Gumuz and Oromia and recruits at the federal training centre for prison staff.

WOUNDED AND SICK

Treating disabled people

The ICRC marked its 25th year of supporting physical rehabilitation services in Ethiopia. It continued to support five centres (the main Addis Ababa Prosthetic/Orthotic Centre and Arba Minch, Dessie, Harar and Mekele

centres), providing training, materials and funds, including covering the cost of fitting war-disabled patients, while phasing out its cooperation with the Alert Hospital, the Cheshire Polio Centre and the Tibebe-Micili centre, all in Addis Ababa. With the agreement of the centres it was assisting, the ICRC switched from making monthly monitoring visits to spending at least three months at each centre to supervise the work and provide on-the-job training. It also held formal workshops to upgrade staff skills. Three ICRC specialists continued to teach Ethiopia's first prosthetics/orthotics diploma course. The 21 students were scheduled to graduate from the two-and-half-year programme, funded by the World Bank, in January 2005. The ICRC also sponsored seven Ethiopian technicians on one- to three-year courses at the Training Centre for Orthopaedic Technologists in Tanzania.

With World Bank funding, Ethiopia built five new prosthetic/orthotic centres in 2004, and plans progressed to establish a national physical rehabilitation research centre. The ICRC therefore decided to gradually reduce its funding for the sector in 2005, while reinforcing its training programme, and discussed this with the authorities.

- ▶ 8 physical rehabilitation centres supported
- ▶ 1,776 prostheses (948 for mine victims), 2,316 orthoses (39 for mine victims), 80 wheelchairs and 4,777 crutches delivered
- ▶ 916 new patients fitted with prostheses and 1,132 with orthoses

In accordance with its mandate and in cooperation with the Addis Ababa centre run by Ethiopia's Labour and Social Affairs' Ministry, the ICRC Special Fund for the Disabled (SFD) continued to provide substantial support to ensure the continuity of former ICRC prosthetic/orthotic centres for the war disabled and other rehabilitation facilities, mainly in Africa (see the *SFD Annual Report* on www.icrc.org).

AUTHORITIES

The ICRC welcomed Ethiopia's ratification on 20 November of the 1997 Ottawa Convention on the Prohibition of Anti-Personnel Mines.

During the year the ICRC maintained a dialogue with the federal authorities on the need to ratify IHL treaties and incorporate their provisions into national law. The

ICRC and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) organized a two-day session on this theme for members of the federal parliament. With ICRC input, the final draft of Ethiopia's new criminal code retained provisions concerning the repression of war crimes and protection of the red cross emblem. The ICRC also gave introductory talks on IHL and the ICRC to local government officials countrywide.

ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

Armed forces incorporate IHL

With ICRC support since 1991, the Ethiopian armed forces incorporated IHL into their training programmes in 2004, using their own instructors. At a five-day workshop, the ICRC and 21 officers drafted five IHL curricula for all ranks of the armed and security forces.

Another milestone was the one-day ICRC workshop for 32 officers and legal advisers of the Ministry of Defence on the subject of people reported missing in times of conflict. The Ministry later expressed an interest in producing identification tags for soldiers. The ICRC also conducted its first workshop for female army officers, a one-day session on the ICRC's Women and War study for 31 participants.

In the field, the ICRC continued to train commanding officers to teach IHL to their units. It also gave introductory presentations on IHL to armed forces personnel countrywide.

- ▶ 304 commanding officers of field units trained as IHL instructors
- ▶ some 2,000 military personnel attended IHL presentations, including peacekeepers leaving for Burundi and Liberia
- ▶ some 8,500 IHL booklets, plus first-aid manuals and bandages, distributed to armed forces personnel in the field
- ▶ IHL extracts published regularly in the armed forces newspaper

Police

With ICRC support since 1994, the Federal Police College introduced international human rights law and humanitarian principles into its curricula in 2003. In 2004 the ICRC conducted a three-week course to train 30 police instructors to teach these subjects at the college and regional training centres. It also helped the police produce a standard training manual and draw up a plan to assess the force's operational implementation of human rights law and

humanitarian principles. In the field, the ICRC continued to hold two-day introductory workshops for federal, regional and municipal police personnel, including, for the first time, female police.

- 30 police instructors trained to teach international human rights law and humanitarian principles
- some 850 police attended two-day workshops on international human rights law and humanitarian principles
- the Federal Police College received a standard training manual and DVDs

CIVIL SOCIETY

Promoting IHL through the media

In 2004 the ICRC:

- conducted a course for 26 journalists in Tigray on IHL and the role of the journalist during armed conflict;
- with the African Union and UNESCO, organized an IHL workshop in Addis Ababa for 40 journalists and information officers of African embassies;
- signed an agreement with Ethiopia's Mass Media Training Institute to introduce IHL in its journalism curriculum.

IHL course launched for law students

Addis Ababa University signed an agreement with the ICRC to introduce a 28-hour elective course on IHL for fourth-year law students; classes started in April. Under ICRC sponsorship, a law lecturer attended an IHL course in Geneva – he was expected to take over the university course in 2005 – and a team of three university law students won second prize at the international IHL moot-court competition in Tanzania (see *Nairobi*).

IHL in secondary schools

In 2002 the ICRC initiated a project to introduce its Exploring Humanitarian Law programme in state secondary schools throughout Ethiopia. In 2004 it evaluated the programme in Harar's six schools (introduced in 2003) and was analysing the lessons learned before introducing it in Tigray and Amhara (teachers in these states were trained in the programme in 2003). At the same time the ICRC conducted courses and workshops on the programme for education officials, heads of schools and teachers in the SNNPRS, the SNRS and Benishangul-Gumuz; the authorities in all these states had signed agreements to pilot the programme. The

ICRC also assisted the regions in translating and culturally adapting the programme and sponsored the heads of the Harar and Tigray boards of education to attend the Pan-African Education Leadership Seminar on Exploring Humanitarian Law in South Africa (see *Pretoria*).

- 560 teachers trained in the Exploring Humanitarian Law programme
- 1,500 copies of the Exploring Humanitarian Law education pack in Tigrinya distributed

NATIONAL SOCIETY

The Ethiopian Red Cross Society and the ICRC worked together to facilitate repatriations, distribute emergency aid, run the tracing and RCM network and promote IHL. The ICRC continued to provide the National Society with substantial support – funds, training, relief goods, equipment and expertise – to develop these activities and strengthen the capacities of the headquarters and branches in regions affected by internal disturbances or former armed conflict.

Capacity building

The ICRC, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and partner National Societies active in Ethiopia contributed to assessments of the reporting systems and human-resources policies of the Ethiopian Red Cross. As part of this process, the ICRC and the Ethiopian Red Cross held, for the first time, a week-long workshop to review and plan the National Society's activities.

Restoring family links

An evaluation of the tracing and RCM network, carried out jointly in July by the Ethiopian Red Cross and the ICRC, showed the need for more management and skills training. A plan of action was agreed, and in December the ICRC helped organize three tracing workshops for some 80 National Society staff members from branches countrywide. During the year ICRC teams worked in the field with Ethiopian Red Cross tracing staff and gave on-the-job training to branch volunteers.

Emergency and assistance programmes

An ICRC delegate spent three months working with the National Society on upgrading the ambulance service and making it self-supporting. The ICRC paid for six new ambulances and radio-communication equipment and helped organize training

for ambulance drivers and attendants. Most branches were following the management guidelines agreed in 2002, and many municipalities had renewed their funding for the service, although the fleet was not yet self-supporting. With ICRC support, the National Society revised the promotional brochure given to potential donors.

The ICRC provided Red Cross branches with relief goods for families displaced by clashes in Gambella and the SNRS and organized a training day on disaster management and the Safer Access (see *Glossary*) approach for 23 participants from 11 branches. It also supported various Red Cross projects assisting communities affected by former conflicts. A project in Adigrat, Tigray, for example, was helping some 250 street children return to school or earn a living. Other projects included an HIV/AIDS-awareness and home-care programme for demobilized soldiers and vocational training for mine victims and women who had returned to Tigray from Eritrea and were supporting their families.

Promoting IHL and the Movement

The ICRC focused on supporting more branches to give talks in their communities on IHL, Red Cross activities and the Fundamental Principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. It helped organize a three-day refresher course for 36 disseminators from 31 branches and four regional offices and assisted in developing new presentation and training tools, many of them modelled on examples from the Kenyan Red Cross. The ICRC also sponsored a National Society staff member to take part in the Pan-African Education Leadership Seminar on Exploring Humanitarian Law in South Africa (see *Pretoria*).