

Chad



The ICRC has been operating in Chad since 1978. It focuses on protecting and assisting people internally displaced, detained or otherwise affected by internal armed conflict or violence, or by the spillover of hostilities in the neighbouring Darfur region of Sudan. 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 longstanding programmes to promote IHL among the authorities, armed forces and civil society and supports the Red Cross of Chad.

EXPENDITURE (IN KCHF)

Protection	5,266
Assistance	16,459
Prevention	1,815
Cooperation with National Societies	1,016
General	-

► **24,556**

of which: Overheads 1,395

IMPLEMENTATION RATE

Expenditure/yearly budget	92%
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PERSONNEL

51 expatriates
158 national staff (daily workers not included)

KEY POINTS

In 2007, the ICRC:

- ▶ assisted tens of thousands of IDPs, their host residents and nomadic herders in boosting their economic security by providing them with food, relief goods, seed and tools and implementing quick-impact agricultural and veterinary projects
- ▶ improved access to water for 120,000 residents, IDPs and returnees
- ▶ visited inmates in detention facilities countrywide, following up the cases of 520 security detainees and stepping in, where necessary, to improve detention conditions
- ▶ improved treatment for the weapon-wounded by fielding 2 surgical teams, delivering supplies to medical and health facilities, and supporting Chad's 2 physical rehabilitation centres
- ▶ restored family links between Sudanese refugees and their relatives and between children formerly associated with fighting forces and their parents through the tracing and RCM services
- ▶ assisted the Chadian armed forces in establishing a national school for IHL instructors

CONTEXT

Eastern Chad remained volatile. By year-end, there were some 140,000 people displaced in the region, forced from their homes by nearly two years of armed conflict, communal violence and sporadic cross-border raids from Sudan's conflict-affected Darfur province. The violence had also disrupted the subsistence economy and public services in a region already marked by chronic poverty. In addition, some 240,000 Sudanese refugees from Darfur were still sheltering in eastern Chad.

A number of peace deals were brokered, then broken, between the government and armed groups active in the east. Military confrontations were sporadic and of a low intensity until the last two months of 2007 when heavy fighting erupted.

Communal clashes, mainly between sedentary and nomadic groups, increased in number and intensity in the first half of 2007, but subsided in July at the start of the rainy season. Tensions persisted, however, as herders moved through clash-affected areas.

Relations between Chad and Sudan remained tense. Cooperation agreements between the two countries to restore order along their common border were not followed up, and each country accused the other of sheltering armed groups dedicated to overthrowing their respective governments.

In September, the UN approved a peacekeeping force for Chad and the Central African Republic, comprising some 3,700 European Union troops and 300 UN police mandated to assist in protecting the civilian and refugee populations. By year-end, the force had not yet been deployed.

MAIN FIGURES AND INDICATORS

	Total		Total	Women	Children
PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses)					
Detainees visited	3,849				
Detainees visited and monitored individually	520				
		<i>of whom females</i>	8		
		<i>of whom minors</i>	16		
Number of visits carried out	147				
Number of places of detention visited	71				
RESTORING FAMILY LINKS					
<i>Red Cross messages (RCMs) and reunifications</i>					
RCMs collected	8,640				
RCMs distributed	6,203				
People reunited with their families	12				
<i>Tracing requests, including cases of missing persons</i>					
People for whom a tracing request was newly registered	2				
		<i>of whom minors at the time of disappearance</i>	1		
Tracing cases closed positively (persons located)	58				
Tracing cases still being handled at 31 December 2007 (people)	122				
		<i>of which for females</i>	44		
		<i>of which for minors at the time of disappearance</i>	37		
<i>Unaccompanied minors (UAMs) and separated children (SCs), including unaccompanied demobilized child soldiers</i>					
UAMs/SCs newly registered by the ICRC	20				
UAMs/SCs reunited with their families by the ICRC	5				
UAM/SC cases still being handled at 31 December 2007	471				
DOCUMENTS ISSUED					
People to whom travel documents were issued	3				
People to whom a detention attestation was issued	107				
CIVILIANS AND PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM					
<i>Economic security, water and habitat</i>					
Food	<i>Beneficiaries</i>	77,788	22%	63%	
Essential household items	<i>Beneficiaries</i>	62,343	24%	60%	
Agricultural inputs and micro-economic initiatives	<i>Beneficiaries</i>	102,547	24%	60%	
Water, sanitation and habitat projects	<i>Beneficiaries</i>	120,190	35%	25%	
Health					
Health centres supported	<i>Structures</i>	9			
Consultations	<i>Patients</i>	2,608			
	<i>of which curative</i>		225	859	
	<i>of which ante/post-natal</i>		768		
Immunizations	<i>Doses</i>	17,922			
WOUNDED AND SICK					
Hospitals supported	<i>Structures</i>	4			
Admissions	<i>Patients</i>	1,083	184	62	
Operations	<i>Operations performed</i>	884			
Physical rehabilitation					
Patients receiving services	<i>Patients</i>	3,432	625	1,618	
Prostheses delivered	<i>Units</i>	278	40	10	
Orthoses delivered	<i>Units</i>	479	68	258	

ICRC ACTION

The ICRC stepped up its activities in Chad, staying focused on protecting and assisting people directly affected by armed conflict and other situations of violence. Resources were concentrated along the Chad-Sudan border and in remote villages in eastern Chad where few organizations were working because of security constraints. The delegation opened six operational posts along the border and in May appealed for an additional CHF 9.47 million to assist the larger-than-anticipated number of IDPs and wounded.

The delegation intensified its dialogue with the authorities, the armed forces and armed groups, reminding them of their obligations under IHL and other applicable laws. It also stressed the ICRC's strict principles of independence and neutrality to ensure that its staff had safe access to people in need. Delegates documented alleged IHL violations and made any necessary representations to the relevant parties.

The ICRC maintained its strategy of assisting IDPs in their host communities. The aim was to help displaced families regain a measure of self-sufficiency, thus favouring their return home, security permitting, rather than their placement in a camp, which could increase dependency on aid and further disrupt the social fabric. Tens of thousands of IDPs and their host residents received a combination of food aid, relief goods, seed and tools. The ICRC also initiated quick-impact agricultural projects to help improve the economy in communities hosting IDPs, and rehabilitated water and health services to meet increased demand. Struggling nomadic communities benefited from a veterinary training programme to boost livestock productivity.

To improve treatment for the weapon-wounded, ICRC surgical teams trained staff and performed operations in two main referral hospitals, while numerous hospitals, clinics and health posts received emergency supplies. The teams also flew to various locations to treat the wounded and held war-surgery seminars for Chadian medical staff working in the east and in N'Djamena. In addition, the ICRC maintained support to Chad's two physical rehabilitation centres.

Delegates continued to follow the individual cases of security detainees and monitor general conditions in detention facilities countrywide. They discussed their findings and recommendations with the authorities, stepping in, where necessary, to improve living conditions. The ICRC, for example, provided malnourished inmates with food and ensured that released detainees who were minors had access to social services and could contact their families. It also acted as a neutral intermediary in facilitating the repatriation of Sudanese soldiers released by armed groups in Chad.

Sudanese refugees continued to contact relatives through the tracing and RCM services. A priority for the ICRC, in coordination with UNHCR and international child protection agencies, was to put child refugees and children formerly associated with fighting forces back in touch with their parents and, where appropriate, reunite the families.

Longstanding programmes to promote IHL progressed as planned, with the focus on the authorities, armed forces, other weapon bearers and influential civil society sectors. Backed by long-term ICRC support, the armed forces established a school for IHL instructors.

The Red Cross of Chad, with ICRC support, boosted its emergency response activities and developed its tracing and communication programmes. The delegation also ensured the coordination of the activities of Movement partners active in Chad.

The ICRC continued to cooperate with UN agencies and other humanitarian actors in fields of common interest in order to maximize impact, identify uncovered needs and avoid duplication, including through its attendance at UN cluster meetings. WFP and the ICRC agreed on a cost-effective joint mechanism to transfer or exchange stocks.

CIVILIANS

Protecting civilians

The ICRC stepped up its dialogue with the national and local authorities, the armed forces and armed groups, reminding them of their obligation under IHL to protect those not or no longer taking part in the hostilities. Allegations of IHL violations were rare, although the recruitment of minors into fighting forces was a concern. Delegates collected and documented alleged incidents of abuses and, where necessary, made representations to the parties concerned.

In cooperation with the ICRC, an expert from the Swedish Rescue Services Agency assessed the risk to civilians posed by mines and explosive remnants of war in eastern Chad following the heavy fighting in late 2007. At a subsequent meeting in N'Djamena convened by the ICRC, the national authorities and relevant organizations were informed of the expert's recommendation that clearance operations begin immediately.

Providing emergency aid and livelihood assistance

About 50% of the estimated 140,000 IDPs in eastern Chad had fled to villages near their homes and fields along the Chad-Sudan border. Few organizations, apart from the ICRC, were working in this area because of security constraints. Many households had been displaced more than once, having to abandon crops, food stocks and personal belongings. Communities who took in displaced families were generous, but most had few resources to spare. A small number of IDPs returned home in the latter part of 2007.

IDPs in the Assoungha, Dar Sila and Dar Tama border regions were able to set up makeshift homes with shelter materials and basic household items delivered by the ICRC. Needy IDPs, host residents and returnees also received food rations to last until the next harvest, and those with access to arable land, which was the majority, were given seed and tools. Post-distribution monitoring in late 2007 showed that the resulting cereal crop of the displaced beneficiaries would cover their needs until at least April 2008, barring another displacement.

IDPs and their host communities also worked with the ICRC on implementing small-scale agricultural projects designed to improve their economic situation. Villagers in Dogdoré (Dar Sila) and Goungour (Assoungha) received pedal-operated pumps to irrigate vegetable gardens, which provided food and income. Associations of market gardeners from 10 villages in Assoungha and Dar Sila were also able to boost and diversify their vegetable production after attending a three-day course on cultivation methods and receiving seed and tools. The course was organized with the National Rural Development Office. Allacha (Dar Sila) village built a communal grain warehouse, with the ICRC providing materials and expertise.

To improve livestock productivity, 95 pastoralists in Dar Sila were trained and equipped by the ICRC and the Animal Husbandry Ministry to provide basic veterinary services in their nomadic communities.

- ▶ 77,494 people (16,259 households), including 58,898 IDPs, received food
- ▶ 62,240 IDPs and 103 residents (13,161 households) received essential household items
- ▶ 102,547 people (21,026 households), including 90,747 IDPs, benefited from agricultural/veterinary/micro-economic initiatives, including:
 - 72,112 people from distributions of seed and tools
 - 23,750 pastoralists from a veterinary training programme
 - 6,685 people from micro-economic projects

Improving water and health services

Some 55,000 IDPs, residents and returnees in the Assoungha region had access to health care at four centres (Arkoum, Borata, Goungour and Kawa), which received ICRC supplies, back-up for immunization campaigns, and staff training in the diagnosis and treatment of malaria. In addition, the Arkoum and Borata centres were rebuilt, with improved sanitation facilities. Several other health centres in violence-affected areas received ad hoc medical supplies to cope with an influx of IDPs or returnees, or to fill gaps between deliveries of stock.

In the 4 health centres that received regular ICRC support:

- ▶ 2,608 people given consultations, including 768 attending ante/post-natal consultations and 1,840 attending curative consultations
- ▶ 17,922 vaccine doses administered (15,681 to children aged five or under and 1,946 to women of childbearing age)

The supply of drinking water also improved in the border region after the ICRC upgraded systems in Adé, Adré, Biltine and Iriba and dug or rehabilitated 17 rural wells.

- ▶ 120,000 people benefited from water projects

Restoring family links

Several thousand Sudanese refugees living in 12 camps in eastern Chad restored or maintained contact with relatives through the tracing and RCM services run by the ICRC and Chadian Red Cross and refugee volunteers. In coordination with UNHCR, UNICEF and other child protection agencies, a small number of vulnerable refugees, including children, were reunited with their families in another refugee camp or in Sudan. Similarly, children in Chad formerly associated with fighting forces were offered the RCM and tracing services to contact and, where possible, rejoin their parents.

On 25 October, the Chadian authorities halted the operation and arrested members of the French charity Zoe's Ark who had planned to fly 103 children from Abéché to foster parents in France. The Chadian authorities assumed responsibility for identifying the children and locating their parents. The ICRC offered to trace any parents believed to be in Sudan and, upon request by all authorities concerned and the families, reunite them with their children.

- ▶ 8,488 RCMs collected from and 6,169 RCMs distributed to civilians, including 525 from and 381 to unaccompanied/separated children, of which 318 from and 84 to children formerly associated with fighting forces

- new tracing requests registered for 2 people (including 1 minor at the time of disappearance); 58 people located; 122 people (including 44 females and 37 minors at the time of disappearance) still being sought
- 12 people reunited with their families, including 5 unaccompanied/separated children
- 20 unaccompanied/separated children registered; 471 cases of unaccompanied/separated children still being handled

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

The ICRC visited inmates in government-run detention facilities countrywide, monitoring the individual cases of security detainees and general living conditions and treatment. The authorities were informed, in confidence, of the ICRC's findings and recommendations.

Inmates were offered the RCM service to contact their families and received any essential items they lacked, such as soap, brooms and buckets.

Where necessary, the ICRC stepped in to help the authorities improve detention conditions. After receiving a month's worth of ICRC food rations in January, malnourished detainees held in N'Djamena in connection with the 2006 attack on the capital regained a normal nutritional status. When the majority of these detainees were released in February, the 40 minors were placed, at the ICRC's instigation, in a reintegration centre, where most contacted relatives through RCMs. Following the November 2007 fighting in eastern Chad, 26 wounded detainees were treated by ICRC surgeons, and the detaining authorities received medical supplies. In addition, inmates in two detention facilities faced fewer health risks after the ICRC upgraded sanitation facilities.

The delegation visited some people held in Chad by armed groups. In April, 94 such detainees were released and repatriated to Sudan, with the ICRC acting as a neutral intermediary.

- 3,849 detainees visited, of whom 520 monitored individually (including 8 females and 16 minors) and 371 newly registered (including 8 females and 14 minors), during 147 visits to 71 places of detention
- 152 RCMs collected from and 34 RCMs distributed to detainees
- 107 detention certificates issued to former detainees or their families
- 294 detainees received food
- 190 detainees benefited from sanitation projects

WOUNDED AND SICK

Treating the weapon-wounded

Staff at N'Djamena's Liberty Hospital and Abéché District Hospital improved their surgical skills through training programmes run by two four-person ICRC teams, who also performed emergency operations. The Abéché training programme ended in June. Both hospitals also received drugs, dressing kits, surgical instruments, tents and beds, and in Liberty Hospital a physiotherapy department was established and the water and sewerage systems rehabilitated. In another initiative, a total of 60 Chadian staff from various medical facilities participated in two ICRC war-surgery seminars held in N'Djamena and Abéché.

At year-end, when heavy fighting erupted in eastern Chad, a second ICRC surgical team was flown in to help out at Abéché Hospital, then deployed to the Military Teaching Hospital in N'Djamena, where the remaining casualties had been transferred.

During 2007, various health posts in eastern Chad received ad hoc supplies to treat the wounded, and several hundred people, including the wounded, children, pregnant women and the elderly, were evacuated by the ICRC from conflict zones to hospitals or other safe places.

In the 2 ICRC-supported hospitals that provided data:

- 1,083 patients (including 184 women and 62 children) admitted: of whom 675 weapon-wounded (including 75 women, 22 children, and 36 people injured by mines or explosive remnants of war) and 408 other surgical cases
- 884 surgical operations performed

Providing services for amputees

People continued to lose limbs in mine incidents and other conflict-related situations, especially in the east and north of Chad.

Patients at Chad's two physical rehabilitation centres, the Kabalaye Physical Rehabilitation Centre in N'Djamena and Maison Notre Dame de la Paix in Moundou, were fitted with artificial limbs or other mobility devices produced with ICRC equipment and materials. Personnel at both centres also received on-the-job training during three- to five-month missions by two ICRC experts, and five staff members attended an ICRC prosthetics/orthotics course in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

Through the ICRC's referral system, 52 war amputees from eastern and northern Chad were treated at the Kabalaye centre, with the delegation funding their transport, accommodation and treatment.

- 3,432 patients (including 625 women and 1,618 children) received services at 2 ICRC-supported physical rehabilitation centres
- 127 new patients (including 18 women and 5 children) fitted with prostheses and 105 (including 4 women and 65 children) fitted with orthoses
- 278 prostheses (including 40 for women, 10 for children and 181 for mine victims), 479 orthoses (including 68 for women, 258 for children and 15 for mine victims), 1,179 crutches and 49 wheelchairs delivered

AUTHORITIES

The Chadian authorities and the ICRC met on several occasions to discuss protection issues related to the conflict and the status of Chad's ratification and implementation of IHL treaties.

To assist the implementation process, around 100 members of parliament took part in a one-day session in May on the integration into national law of the provisions of IHL treaties ratified by Chad. The relevant ministries also received a draft law on the protection of the red cross emblem for their review. A law establishing a national IHL committee, drawn up with ICRC support at the end of 2006, awaited presidential approval.

In eastern Chad, civil authorities and traditional leaders learned more about IHL and the ICRC through a series of introductory presentations, which stressed the protection that IHL afforded civilians and humanitarian organizations.

ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

The Chadian armed forces and the ICRC continued to work together to ensure that IHL was integrated systematically into military operations and training at all levels.

The Defence Ministry's IHL reference centre, which coordinated IHL instruction at the country's 12 military training institutions, was converted in September into a school for IHL instructors. To assist this initiative, the new head of the school participated in August in the two-week senior workshop on International Rules governing Military Operation, on the integration of IHL into military operations. Senior officers from 60 countries attended the event, which was held in Geneva, Switzerland, and hosted by the Swiss army and the ICRC. One military IHL instructor also took part in an advanced IHL course in San Remo, while 57 experienced or new instructors reinforced their teaching skills at ICRC courses held in Chad. The school also received IHL materials and, in December, held its first course, attended by senior staff officers of the armed and security forces.

Other military training establishments renewed their working relations with the ICRC. For example, recruits in the national police force and at the National School for Non-Commissioned Army Officers attended briefings on IHL as part of their training.

Delegates in the field in eastern Chad took every opportunity to remind armed forces personnel and members of armed groups of their obligations under IHL and, where possible, gave formal presentations on the subject.

CIVIL SOCIETY

Given the volatile situation in Chad, it was important that the public, especially influential sectors of civil society, supported IHL, including the principle of humanitarian access to conflict victims.

A first-time contact between the national association of traditional leaders and the ICRC was especially fruitful. The leaders learned more about IHL but also explained their concerns and local dynamics, which put the ICRC in a better position to protect and assist needy communities. In another successful initiative, law lecturers from Chad's four main institutions of higher education, as well as magistrates, lawyers and journalists, took part in the ICRC's first ever national course held in Chad on teaching IHL. Over eight days in February, the 21 participants updated their knowledge of IHL and discussed teaching techniques and course plans.

In eastern Chad, diverse audiences, including medical staff, women's and youth groups, and UN and NGO workers, were briefed on IHL and its application in Chad. In parallel, the general public learned about humanitarian issues through national and international media coverage generated by regular ICRC updates.

RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT

Strengthening capacity

During 2007, the Chadian Red Cross significantly boosted its emergency response skills, helping the ICRC deliver relief goods and care for the wounded and the sick. With the help of ICRC funds, training, materials, and technical and logistics back-up, the National Society also worked to develop its tracing and communication programmes, drafted new statutes in line with Movement standards and expanded its infrastructure.

With ICRC support, the Chadian Red Cross:

- ▶ trained personnel in first aid, the Safer Access approach, tracing, and the promotion of IHL, the Movement and the Fundamental Principles
- ▶ fielded an efficient network of first-aiders in conflict-affected areas
- ▶ deployed nursing aides during emergencies at Abéché Hospital and N'Djamena Military Teaching Hospital
- ▶ established a contingency plan to assist the ICRC-supported Liberty Hospital in N'Djamena in the event of an influx of weapon-wounded
- ▶ set up a horse-and-cart service to transport patients to medical facilities from the remote Adré border region
- ▶ constructed a northern branch (Faya Largeau) and added a four-wheel drive vehicle for tracing and dissemination work
- ▶ initiated tracing activities in southern Chad

Coordinating Movement activities

To maximize the impact of aid, the ICRC convened regular coordination meetings with Movement partners in Chad and assisted them with security management, logistics and public communication. With ICRC support, for example, the International Federation defined a plan to evacuate its staff working in refugee camps in eastern Chad should the situation there deteriorate.