



## MAIN FIGURES AND INDICATORS

|   | Total   |   | Total   | Women     | Children   |
|---|---|---|---|-----------|------------|
| <b>PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses)</b>   |   |   | <b>CIVILIANS AND PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM</b> |           |            |
| Detainees visited   | 2,540   | <i>Economic security, water and habitat</i> |   |           |            |
| Detainees visited and monitored individually  | 59  | Food  | Beneficiaries   | 499       |            |
| Number of visits carried out  | 132   | Essential household items                   | Beneficiaries   | 5,400     |            |
| Number of places of detention visited   | 36  | Water, sanitation and habitat projects      | Beneficiaries   | 2,503,049 | 50%<br>30% |
| <b>RESTORING FAMILY LINKS</b>   |   |   |   |           |            |
| <i>Red Cross messages (RCMs) and reunifications</i>   |   |   |   |           |            |
| RCMs collected  | 89  |   |   |           |            |
| RCMs distributed  | 206   |   |   |           |            |
| People reunited with their families   | 13  |   |   |           |            |
| <i>Tracing requests, including cases of missing persons</i>   |   |   |   |           |            |
| Tracing cases closed positively (persons located)   | 11  |   |   |           |            |
| Tracing cases still being handled at 31 December 2007 (people)  | 10  |   |   |           |            |
|   | <i>of which for females</i>                             |   |   |           |            |
|   | 5   |   |   |           |            |
|   | <i>of which for minors at the time of disappearance</i> |   |   |           |            |
|   | 3   |   |   |           |            |
| <i>Unaccompanied minors (UAMs) and separated children (SCs), including unaccompanied demobilized child soldiers</i> |   |   |   |           |            |
| UAMs/SCs newly registered by the ICRC   | 5   |   |   |           |            |
| UAMs/SCs reunited with their families by the ICRC   | 11  |   |   |           |            |
| UAM/SC cases still being handled at 31 December 2007 (people)   | 39  |   |   |           |            |
| <b>DOCUMENTS ISSUED</b>   |   |   |   |           |            |
| People to whom travel documents were issued   | 12  |   |   |           |            |
| People to whom a detention attestation was issued   | 3   |   |   |           |            |

## ICRC ACTION

The ICRC expanded its protection and assistance activities to respond to the effects of the upheavals, which required appealing for an additional CHF 1.9 million not originally budgeted for. The organization initiated activities to raise awareness among the authorities and the armed and security forces of their responsibility to protect civilians from the effects of violence, in conformity with humanitarian principles.

During the unrest, the ICRC provided various hospitals with medical and surgical supplies and equipment, logistics backup and human resources to cope with the influx of wounded. Once the violence had subsided, it launched a new programme to provide 10 major hospitals with equipment and specialized training in war surgery, nursing and first aid to help them cope better in future emergencies. Plans for water, sanitation and rehabilitation projects were implemented in eight of the hospitals. Communities in Basse Guinée whose homes had been destroyed during intercommunal violence received material assistance from the ICRC.

The ICRC provided the Red Cross Society of Guinea with logistical, financial and human resources that enabled it to carry out a rapid and effective assistance operation for civilians caught up in the upheavals. Earlier efforts to raise public awareness of the Movement and help the Guinean Red Cross train volunteers enabled the National Society to work without incident, often in areas where no other humanitarian workers felt it safe to operate. Other ICRC support to the National Society centred on strengthening its external communication capacity and, in particular, its ability to mobilize funds from the government, partner National Societies and other potential donors.

With attention focused on dealing with the unrest, the promotion of IHL among the authorities and the armed and security forces

was put on hold. However, during the second half of 2007, two major IHL seminars were organized for the army.

The ICRC continued to visit detainees to monitor their detention conditions and treatment and encouraged the authorities to improve prison conditions, where necessary. It repeatedly requested access to security detainees held under the authority of the Ministry of Defence, but to no avail. Damage to 14 prisons and a number of temporary detention places inflicted during the unrest aggravated the already difficult situation in prisons. Rather than cut back as planned, therefore, the ICRC stepped up its assistance, putting in place emergency nutritional programmes for 499 malnourished detainees in 7 prisons.

As more refugees returned to their countries of origin and means of communication in the region returned to normal, the demand for family-links services continued to drop. The ICRC scaled back its tracing activities further to reflect this. The number of children separated from their families also declined, so the ICRC pursued initiatives to resolve outstanding cases, either through family reunification or other lasting solutions.

## CIVILIANS

Following the violent repression of strikes that left hundreds dead or wounded, activities were initiated to raise awareness among the authorities and the armed and security forces of their responsibility to protect civilians from the effects of armed violence. The justice minister and other key national and local players met the ICRC to discuss the activities. Contacts with other actors, notably local human rights NGOs, were intensified in order to gather information on the general situation and on specific events related to the strikes and to coordinate activities with them.

Victims and witnesses of alleged violations of IHL were interviewed confidentially to gain a better understanding of the pattern of abuses and the identities of the alleged perpetrators. The purpose of this was to identify groups among whom to promote human rights and acceptance of the Movement so as to facilitate access to victims of future crises.

### Improving water supply

The economic standstill resulting from the protests worsened the situation of civilians impoverished by years of hardship and adversely affected public services. Urban residents had a safe supply of water for three months thanks to the provision of 111 tonnes of chemicals by the ICRC, enabling the national water board to operate 24 water treatment plants countrywide. Materials were ordered for the repair of two plants in 2008.

- ▶ 2.5 million people benefited from water/sanitation projects

### Assisting victims of violence

With the administration weakened countrywide, intercommunal violence resurged in certain regions. In Boké and Kindia, some 5,400 people (900 households) received essential household items from the ICRC to replace possessions lost when their homes were destroyed.

### Restoring family links

Guinea's border areas remained generally calm. With political stability taking hold in the sub-region, most refugees were returning home or establishing new communication patterns. Thus, apart from the distribution of the few pending RCMs, the RCM service for families separated by the crisis in Côte d'Ivoire became unnecessary.

Following the arrests, injury and deaths of civilians during the strikes, the National Society and the ICRC assessed the level of disruption to family links, but identified no specific tracing needs. Nevertheless, the medical authorities were reminded of their responsibility to inform the families of deceased persons.

Tracing activities were reduced, restricting new cases to requests from victims of the recent events in Guinea or from vulnerable individuals. As decided in 2006, no more refugee children or vulnerable adults separated from their families were registered. People registered previously were still monitored individually and helped to restore family links. Among those monitored, several children and vulnerable adults facing specific problems – including exploitation or medical or economic difficulties – received particular attention. Consultation with these individuals' foster families, neighbourhoods or communities and referral to local NGOs or international organizations were among the efforts made to find lasting solutions.

Appropriate lasting solutions, including repatriation and integration into local communities, were also sought for children and vulnerable adults whose families were untraceable. Accordingly, the ICRC participated in the meetings of the various governmental and non-governmental actors who made up a taskforce responsible for finding such solutions, and exchanged information on individual cases.

- ▶ 83 RCMs collected from and 203 RCMs distributed to civilians, including 45 from and 78 to unaccompanied/separated children
- ▶ 11 people located; 10 people (including 5 females and 3 minors at the time of disappearance) still being sought
- ▶ 13 people reunited with their families, including 11 unaccompanied/separated children

- ▶ 5 unaccompanied/separated children registered (including 2 demobilized children); 39 cases of unaccompanied/separated children still being handled
- ▶ 22 children and vulnerable adults visited to monitor their reintegration into their families
- ▶ 12 people issued with an ICRC travel document

## PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

Detainees held under the jurisdiction of the Justice and Interior and Security Ministries continued to benefit from ICRC visits to assess their detention conditions and treatment, and the findings and recommendations were shared with the authorities. Repeated requests for access to detainees held for security reasons in facilities under the Defence Ministry were unsuccessful.

- ▶ 2,540 detainees visited, of whom 59 monitored individually (including 1 female) and 4 newly registered, during 132 visits to 36 places of detention
- ▶ 6 RCMs collected from and 3 RCMs distributed to detainees and 32 phone calls made to families to inform them of the whereabouts of a detained relative
- ▶ 3 detention certificates issued to former detainees or their families

Damage to 14 prisons, combined with lack of funds for prison management, created immense problems for the authorities in meeting detainees' needs, particularly in terms of food supply. Accordingly, malnourished detainees in 7 prisons were assisted through emergency nutritional programmes initiated by the ICRC. In Conakry Central Prison, where the nutritional situation was critical, inmates benefited from an additional emergency feeding programme, implemented jointly with local NGOs, to provide them with complete food rations for three months. Subsequent surveys confirmed that the inmates had regained good health. Medical officers working in the prisons were actively involved in the programmes so as to enhance their capacities to conduct nutritional assessments and encourage the authorities to assume their responsibilities. Additionally, detainees benefited from the support of the ICRC and other organizations in containing cholera outbreaks in two prisons and keeping down the number of deaths caused by the disease, and from an ICRC campaign to eradicate scabies in another prison.

Inmates in 18 prisons, including 7 damaged ones, lived in improved conditions following repairs to kitchens and water supply and sanitation systems. Plans to raise hygiene awareness among inmates and prison staff and ensure the maintenance of facilities previously restored or constructed by the ICRC were postponed so that the organization could focus on repairing damaged infrastructure. Detainees received basic hygiene and recreational items, distributed by local partners in cooperation with the prison authorities.

- ▶ 499 detainees benefited from emergency nutritional programmes
- ▶ 2,339 detainees benefited from water/habitat projects

Concurrently, the authorities and the ICRC maintained a dialogue on coordination between the Health and Justice Ministries, the food and medical supply systems and a legal framework for prison personnel. The Justice Ministry agreed to create a legal framework, appoint a medical representative within the national penal administration and allocate funds for detainee health care in its 2008 budget.

Ministry representatives, including ministers, medical authorities, prison directors and health workers, and local authorities participated in regional round-tables, organized with ICRC support, to consolidate coordination. Members of the judiciary, the penal and health authorities, and the ICRC continued seeking other ways of identifying and resolving detention-related problems.

A local NGO received office materials to assist in its project to improve the provision of legal aid to detainees.

## WOUNDED AND SICK

During the upheavals, the National Society, assisted by the ICRC, played a crucial role, giving first aid to the injured and/or evacuating them to hospitals in Conakry and N'Zérékoré and transferring human remains to mortuaries.

With hundreds of wounded people requiring hospitalization and the remains of over 150 people needing proper handling, medical facilities were overwhelmed. The crisis underscored the perennial problems in the Guinean health system – lack of adequate human, medical and material resources and logistical means.

Medical facilities in Boké, Conakry, Kankan, Lola, Macenta and N'Zérékoré received sufficient specialized medical supplies, dressing materials and first-aid kits to treat and hospitalize weapon-wounded patients. One hospital also received fuel for its ambulances and formaldehyde for the preservation of dead bodies. The activities were conducted in coordination with the Health Ministry and other humanitarian organizations.

An assistance programme was launched, primarily to improve emergency and trauma departments and thereby strengthen hospital capacity countrywide to cope with any renewed influx of victims. Ten hospitals received equipment and specialized training – including in war surgery – for some 150 doctors, nurses and stretcher-bearers. The University Hospital Centre was supported in maintaining and monitoring medical equipment, marking the revival of such assistance.

Plans to repair emergency and trauma departments, water supply systems and sanitation facilities in eight hospitals were modified to concentrate on needs occasioned by the unrest. Repairs completed in Kankan and Kissidougou hospitals included the installation of a solar-powered water-supply system in the former. Similar work neared completion in Labé hospital and progressed in five other hospitals. As a result, the population had improved health services closer by.

Contingency medical supplies comprising kits for the treatment and hospitalization of weapon-wounded patients were restocked and medical materials donated to the hospitals supported.

- hospitals with beds for 710 patients benefited from water/sanitation/habitat projects
- the Health Ministry and WHO received input from the ICRC in the preparation of guidelines for the treatment of cases of sexual violence

## AUTHORITIES

Owing to the political developments and other impediments, the ratification of IHL treaties and their incorporation into national laws were not priorities for the authorities. For this reason, scheduled projects were put on hold.

## ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

During the strikes early in 2007, the military and security forces were mobilized to restore law and order, which necessitated the postponement of training in IHL and human rights law until 2008.

Despite recurrent difficulties, over 60 military personnel participated in 2 information sessions on IHL, the Fundamental Principles, and the ICRC's mandate and activities. The military personnel were thus made aware of IHL and the specific role of the Movement in emergency situations so that they would support it and facilitate its field operations in the event of violence. With ICRC input, the army's IHL office published and distributed the *Soldier's Handbook*.

Over 90 police personnel were acquainted with the Fundamental Principles, aspects of human rights law applicable to police operations, and the ICRC's mandate and activities, thereby enhancing their support for the Movement and facilitating access to victims in the event of an emergency.

## CIVIL SOCIETY

The ICRC met trade union and civil society leaders to raise their awareness of the specific role of the Movement in emergency situations in order to gain acceptance and security guarantees for field operations in the event of violence.

Over 200 students from Guinea's three main universities participated in the third interuniversity IHL competition organized by local academics and the ICRC.

## RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT

### Strengthening the National Society's emergency response capacity

The Guinean Red Cross, acting promptly, efficiently and often as the only humanitarian player in volatile security conditions, assisted hundreds of civilians caught up in the violent upheavals. With ICRC support, over 700 first-aid workers deployed country-wide evacuated and/or treated 1,636 wounded people, 683 of them seriously, and transferred human remains to mortuaries. The National Society received funds, medical supplies and materials, 5 HF/VHF radio sets and other communication equipment. It also benefited from logistic backup, including 11 vehicles and drivers and 27 motorcycles and bicycles.

Following an in-depth assessment, the National Society received 50 first-aid kits to cover its material needs, while plans got under way to provide it in early 2008 with training in first aid during armed conflict or violence, the handling of human remains, and stress management.

While the focus was on carrying out a rapid and effective assistance operation for civilians caught up in the unrest, the Guinean Red Cross also implemented scheduled programmes. With the support of the ICRC, the National Society:

- ▶ conducted training in first aid for 14 trainers, registration of vulnerable people, and use of ICRC emergency water-treatment kits for 23 trainers of emergency response teams deployed in Guinée Forestière
- ▶ organized 5 regional competitions for 37 Red Cross brigades based on simulated unrest scenarios
- ▶ organized 3 meetings and 3 workshops for 440 tracing coordinators and volunteers
- ▶ organized debriefing and stress management sessions for 112 volunteers
- ▶ recruited and trained a legal adviser
- ▶ enabled 36 of its 38 branches to hold their general assemblies
- ▶ drafted a code of conduct for its members and volunteers

### Promoting IHL and the Movement

The National Society received financial, material, logistic and technical support to strengthen its capacity to promote IHL and respect for the emblem so as to ensure the safety of Red Cross personnel during any future upheavals.

Forty-three senior staff attended courses on communication and writing techniques, while over 1,000 volunteers were trained in methods of relaying humanitarian messages to the public. Radio announcements on IHL and respect for the emblem were made countrywide in local languages.

The Guinean Red Cross organized information sessions in Conakry for over 250 national and local government officials on the Red Cross and its activities. It produced and distributed newsletters on IHL and the assistance provided to victims of the strikes.

Some 180 primary and secondary school teachers were trained in humanitarian values and 60 others in first-aid modules to include in school curricula. A Youth Red Cross caravan left Conakry heading for the border with Mali, spreading awareness of humanitarian principles and values along the way.

The National Society also staged activities to mark World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day on 8 May.

### Coordinating with Movement partners

Movement partners and the ICRC regularly shared information on their operations and security matters. The staff of 27 National Societies, the International Federation and the ICRC attended a two-day workshop on the Seville Agreement and its Supplementary Measures, organized to enhance understanding of partners' respective roles and improve the coordination of their activities.