

assisted the National Society towards the end of the year in ensuring that vulnerable groups (about 10,000 families) received adequate supplies of clean water.

Orthopaedic programme

The delegation continued technical orthopaedic work at the Debre Zeit rehabilitation centre and stepped up its co-operation with the Prosthetic-Orthotic Centre in Addis Ababa. The ICRC prosthetists/orthotists also supported the orthopaedic centres in Asmara and Harar. In the latter, a large group of Somali refugee patients received treatment. All told, the centres at Debre Zeit and Addis Ababa produced 750 prostheses and fitted 566 patients with prostheses, made 202 orthoses and fitted 146 patients with orthoses, and produced over 12,000 pairs of crutches. They also put out 123 wheelchairs and carried out 83 major repairs to prostheses in 1990.

Orthopaedic activities at the Debre Zeit rehabilitation centre were based on an agreement of June 1989 between the ICRC and the Ethiopian Red Cross Society (ERCS), which called for the ICRC to provide technical and material support to the centre.

Dissemination and cooperation with the National Society

The ICRC held dissemination sessions for the Presidential Guard Special Forces Brigade in October. Throughout the year, the ICRC and the Ethiopian Red Cross Society held joint dissemination sessions in Wollo, Shoa, Gojjam, Sidamo and Hararghe, reaching tens of thousands of soldiers, militiamen, government and party officials and members of the general public.

Under the terms of an agreement signed on 19 June between the ERCS, the

Ministry of Health and the ICRC, National Society staff played a key role in the ICRC surgical programme launched in June in the north, providing essential services such as blood bank management and ambulance support, and assisting in contacts with the authorities.

UGANDA

The ICRC extended the scope of its protection activities, set up an emergency first-aid medical post with surgical facilities for one month to care for people wounded in the Sudan conflict, and implemented a major relief programme for 85,000 displaced people in camps near Kumi. The delegation also assisted victims of the Rwandan conflict by participating in the repatriation of 214 Ugandans, including 52 children, from Kigali and by temporarily supporting refugees in the border region.

Activities in various parts of Uganda, especially those near Gulu and Soroti, where the civilian population was still affected by internal conflict, were blocked or disrupted for several months in 1990 owing to security reasons or problems in obtaining authorizations. In the beginning of the year, the delegation was forced to suspend field activities at the Soroti sub-delegation because of extremely stringent restrictions imposed on it, reportedly for security reasons. These restrictions were lifted in mid-June, and the ICRC resumed activities in the region. From April to October, the ICRC sub-delegation in Gulu was forced to curtail field work and concentrate on activities such as visits to prisoners and assistance for people within the town itself because of serious security incidents in the north and north-east.

The ICRC President visited Uganda from 24 to 27 March and held talks with high-

ranking officials in the government and in the National Society. During his visit, the ICRC President emphasized the specific mandate of the ICRC as a humanitarian organization which, although not engaged in development work, strived to help populations affected by war regain their self-sufficiency. He also called on all African leaders to avoid relegating humanitarian assistance programmes to the back burner while seeking the prior solution of international or internal problems, and declared that the ICRC was concerned about the growing number of cases of misuse of the emblem throughout the world.

The ICRC President also met the President of Uganda and addressed the question of Uganda's ratification of the Protocols additional to the Geneva Conventions.

Visits to prisoners

ICRC delegates visited people arrested and detained in relation with the armed conflict or for reasons of state security in Ugandan civilian prisons throughout the year. In January the ICRC was granted access to all persons detained in connection with the ongoing internal conflict or for security reasons. This included detainees held in military barracks. The visits were stopped by the authorities in February. After lengthy negotiations, visits to detainees held in military barracks resumed in October, but only for civilians and sentenced soldiers. Negotiations aimed at gaining access to soldiers not yet sentenced continued through the end of the year. In addition, throughout 1990 delegates regularly visited a number of police stations and prisons in search of prisoners who came within the ICRC's mandate.

Delegates carried out a total of 75 visits to 13 government prisons, four military

facilities and nine police stations, seeing 1,433 prisoners, including 1,237 for the first time. There were mass releases of prisoners in January and April.

The prisoners released in January and in late April received one-off food and non-food assistance from the ICRC, mainly consisting of blankets, hoes, clothing and soap.

Delegates registered the released detainees during the above-mentioned mass releases. The delegates then took measures to verify their safe return home.

In addition, when delegates noted vital needs for food or other supplies in facilities visited by the delegation, the ICRC distributed relief goods and medical supplies. The delegation did not assume the regular responsibility of caring for people deprived of their liberty; such tasks remained the responsibility of the authorities. Distributions were thus carried out on an *ad hoc* basis, and were limited in duration. The ICRC distributed a total of more than nine tonnes of such assistance in 1990.

Tracing Agency

ICRC tracing staff were active in the north and in West Nile Province, where there were large numbers of Sudanese refugees.

In 1990, the ICRC Tracing Agency in Kampala resolved tracing requests involving 204 people and handled 17,238 Red Cross messages.

In December the ICRC organized a convoy to repatriate by road a group of 214 Ugandans who were unable to leave Rwanda for security reasons from Kigali, the capital of Rwanda, after the authorities of both countries asked for the institution's help.

Medical activities

When large numbers of people wounded in the conflict in southern Sudan began arriving in West Nile Province in January, the ICRC sent a medical team to survey the situation and later opened the Moyo first-aid medical post. A surgical team was sent from the ICRC hospital in Lokichokio (Kenya) to Moyo for one month in February.

During their one-month stay, the ICRC medical staff in Moyo carried out 44 operations and admitted 99 patients, 19 of whom were eventually transferred to Lokichokio for further treatment.

Other ICRC medical activities included 150,000 Swiss francs worth of support for local health facilities, evacuation of about 150 sick and wounded people from conflict areas to district hospitals, vaccination campaigns for about 17,000 people and nutritional evaluations. ICRC medical staff also took part in all visits to prisoners.

Orthopaedic activities

In the beginning of the year, the ICRC added a prosthetist/orthotist to the staff at the orthopaedic centre run jointly by the British Red Cross, the Ugandan Red Cross and the Ministry of Health. At the end of the year, the ICRC's involvement in this project came to an end. The British Red Cross continued assisting in the centre.

Production of prostheses at the centre reached 180, and 175 patients were fitted with prostheses. Some 280 orthoses were produced and 257 patients were fitted with orthoses. The centre put out 1,843 pairs of crutches and 338 wheelchairs, and carried out 55 major repairs to prostheses in 1990.

Assistance for the civilian population

The ICRC distributed a total of 5,934 tonnes of relief goods, including 5,291 tonnes of food, in 1990.

After a major offensive against rebel positions near Kumi in February, up to 85,000 displaced people in ten camps near the town required assistance. At first, the ICRC provided non-food relief goods such as blankets, cooking pots, plastic sheeting, soap, shovels and jerrycans for the camps' inhabitants, while other organizations supplied their food. ICRC nutritional staff closely monitored the nutritional status in the camps from February on. When, in June, nutritional surveys indicated a serious need for an improvement in the food distribution system, the ICRC registered the camps' inhabitants and assumed responsibility for general food distributions for a period of three months from July to October, supplying 5,102 tonnes of food, most of which had been handed over to the ICRC logistic base in Mbale by the World Food Programme. From July to November, delegates distributed rations to the 85,000 camp residents. Finally, toward the end of the year, when many of the camp residents were able to return to their homes, the ICRC continued providing food assistance for them. This was necessary because of the disruption to the food system caused by their absence.

About 14,000 families who returned to their villages from the camps in the middle of the year received some 53 tonnes of seed as well as agricultural tools to assist in their resettlement in August and September. Later in the year, an ICRC agronomist surveyed the food production capacity of other villages which had recently received returnees, and reported that these people would be dependent on food aid until at least the next harvest, in June 1991. The report on this survey

was the basis for an agricultural tool and seed distribution carried out in early 1991 to enhance local production.

A similar programme was implemented for about 41,000 families near Gulu.

Dissemination and cooperation with the National Society

Seminars and presentations on the law of war and the Red Cross principles reached thousands of soldiers, policemen and prison personnel. Special seminars and talks were held for about 850 armed forces officers, prison wardens and senior officers of the Uganda Police Forces. Other dissemination activities were aimed at local officials, medical staff, members of the clergy, teachers, students and Red Cross members throughout the country.

The delegation provided training and technical assistance for local staff.

Beginning in late 1989, the ICRC financed a series of four first-aid courses for Ugandan Red Cross staff. The delegation also participated in the financing of two quarterly reviews, *Reach Out Magazine* and *Youth Bulletin*, both put out by the National Society and each with a circulation of over 1,000.

SOMALIA

In 1990, the ICRC was the only humanitarian organization with a regular presence in northern Somalia, where the conflict between government forces and the SNM¹ continued unabated. The fighting compounded ethnic tensions, leading to an extremely complicated situation where the various Somali tribes in the area found themselves aligned with the combatant

¹ Somali National Movement.

groups; the circumstances of the conflict were rendered still more complex by the presence of thousands of Ethiopian refugees in the area.

In early October, delegates began surveying the situation in areas held by the Somali National Movement. In December, the ICRC finally was able to reach SNM-held areas directly by plane.

One by one, assistance agencies and organizations pulled out their expatriates from the north in 1990, mainly for security reasons. While maintaining its presence at the Berbera sub-delegation, the ICRC was forced to cut back drastically its field operations in October after a number of security incidents. During one such incident, on 6 October, an ICRC delegate was killed. As a consequence, additional security measures were taken to protect ICRC staff and operations in early December.

Representations and activities for the protection of people in detention

Throughout the year, the ICRC kept up contacts with the Custodial Corps aimed at gaining access to people detained for security reasons. In September, the ICRC submitted a memorandum to the Ministry of the Interior on ICRC protection activities.

Tracing Agency

The ICRC Tracing Agency in Mogadishu resolved tracing cases involving 976 persons and assisted in family reunifications involving 61 people. It processed 1,412 Red Cross messages in 1990.

Medical activities

The war led to a situation where medical facilities were practically non-existent. The ICRC and the Somali Red Crescent