

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

refurbished a hospital in Berbera in mid-1989 to assist victims of the conflict, and the ICRC also took other action to support medical facilities in the north and evacuate the wounded to the Berbera facility.

The ICRC added a surgical team to the one based at the Berbera surgical hospital in February 1990, when the number of wounded reached a high level; by then the hospital's capacity had grown from 50 to over 80 beds. ICRC aircraft and vehicles evacuated patients to this facility throughout the year. The hospital staff included a physiotherapist as from the middle of the year. In addition, the ICRC provided medical supplies and assistance to district hospitals in six towns affected by the conflict in the north-west (Borama, Burao, Las Anod, Hargeisa, Erigawo and Sheik), and the delegation carried out sanitation work (principally ensuring clean sources of water) in institutions in the major towns of the north.

The ICRC surgical hospital in Berbera admitted 1,115 patients, 617 of whom were evacuated by the sub-delegation, and performed a total of 2,611 operations.

In addition to about 730,000 Swiss francs' worth of medical material used at the Berbera hospital, the ICRC provided over 190,000 francs' worth of medical material to various health facilities in Berbera, Boroma, Burao, Hargeisa, Las Anod and Mogadishu.

Assistance for the civilian population

The fragile economy of the north-west suffered greatly from the war, leaving many people dependent on outside assistance. Beginning in May, the Berbera sub-delegation was able to use roads in the area, and the ICRC began providing food and non-food assistance for over 15,000 displaced people in the Awdal

region, near Boroma. The sub-delegation continued to use convoys to reach Hargeisa, Boroma, the Awdal region and Burao throughout the middle of the year, distributing food and non-food assistance to needy people throughout the region.

Displaced people

After an ICRC survey in the Awdal region (north of Boroma) found urgent needs among some displaced people and nomads, the ICRC began general food distributions there in March, eventually reaching up to 15,000 people in the region.

A growing number of newly displaced people arrived in Berbera at the beginning of the year. The ICRC continued to provide food and non-food assistance such as blankets, clothing, soap and kitchen sets for displaced people, social welfare cases and institutions (such as orphanages, hospitals and centres for the handicapped).

In total, the ICRC distributed over 2,300 tonnes of relief goods in Somalia in 1990, most of which was food (wheat, rice, beans, lentils, cooking oil, sugar, etc.). The delegation also distributed about 35 tonnes of non-food assistance comprising blankets, soap and clothing.

Activities for Ethiopian refugees

Tens of thousands of Ethiopian refugees had come to northern Somalia as a result of the 1977 war between the two countries. Efforts were undertaken throughout 1990 to facilitate the repatriation of this group, which was caught up in the war. By June, UNHCR had obtained the approval of the Ethiopian and Somali authorities for the repatriation of about 5,000 of the tens of thousands of Ethiopian refugees living in north-western Somalia. The ICRC, in its role as neutral intermediary and in cooperation with

UNHCR local staff, registered returnees and transported them to the Ethiopian government's accommodation centre for returning refugees in Babile, Ethiopia.

Repatriation

In October, the ICRC repatriation programme for Ethiopian refugees in the north-west was temporarily halted for security reasons, but it resumed in late December, when an eighth convoy arrived in Babile. A total of 3,864 people were repatriated thanks to this programme.

Assistance

At the beginning of 1990, after the United Nations halted its assistance programme for refugees, the ICRC directly assisted over 17,000 people in the Bihin refugee camp south of Berbera and provided food for therapeutic feeding centres in refugee camps in Boroma. The delegation also provided 475 tonnes of food to ELU/CARE¹ for redistribution in camps near Boroma.

In February, with the beginning of the six-month United Nations Extraordinary Interim Emergency Programme (UN-EIEP) for Ethiopian refugees in northern Somalia, the ICRC curtailed its assistance for refugees. However, when the EIEP drew to an end in August, the ICRC was once again the only agency able to assist Ethiopian refugees, and the delegation resumed limited emergency assistance to the camps in September.

Dissemination and cooperation with the National Society

The delegation held dissemination sessions in the north and in the area around the capital, reaching about 5,000 army

officers, policemen, political and traditional leaders, and members of the general public.

Special dissemination sessions were held for members of the Custodial Corps and army and navy officers.

The ICRC provided material support, including vehicles, radio sets, generators and garage equipment for the Somali Red Crescent in Mogadishu and Berbera.

Logistics

In the first half of the year, the only means of transporting relief goods, personnel and wounded people to and from the towns in the north-west was by small plane. At the end of May, the ICRC began using truck convoys to haul relief goods to Boroma via Hargeisa, and in August, began reaching Sheik and Burao by road as well. The delegation still required small aircraft to ferry supplies from Mogadishu to the Berbera surgical hospital, to evacuate the wounded and to reach isolated areas.

SUDAN

From the beginning of 1990, the institution's activities grew steadily in southern Sudan. Delegates used road transport to reach Bor, and later descended the Nile to Shambe and Adok, the port towns for Yirol and Leer.

In April, following a suspension of seven months, the ICRC resumed flights to three government-held towns (Malakal, Juba and Wau) and three places in areas held by the SPLA¹ (Kongor and Leer, with Bor serving as a logistic stop-over point). Relief activities, once resumed, in-

¹ CARE Emergency Logistical Unit.

¹ Sudan People's Liberation Army.