

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.

cluded support for vulnerable groups in southern towns, distributions of seed and non-food items and general food distributions in Leer and Malakal, as well as veterinary vaccination campaigns. At the same time, ICRC medical activities in the region picked up, and the ICRC kept up efforts to visit people held in connection with the conflict.

In October ICRC flights were again blocked by the Sudanese authorities pending an agreement between the government and the SPLA on how to use the Red Cross II, a barge donated by the Norwegian government for ICRC activities in southern Sudan.

Representations and activities for people in detention

From May to October, ICRC delegates paid three visits in a government place of detention in Juba, to a total of 11 prisoners. In September and November, delegates visited 64 people who had reportedly surrendered to the authorities in Malakal, at the Malakal military headquarters. In October, delegates visited 35 government soldiers held captive in an SPLA camp.

The ICRC submitted an offer of services to the government in 1990, and also continued efforts aimed at ensuring access to all people held by the SPLA, including those visited in 1989 and the 35 seen in early 1990. At the end of the year, negotiations were continuing to allow the ICRC to visit all people detained as a result of the conflict in the Sudan.

Tracing Agency

Much of the volume of tracing work in Sudan centred around the transmission of Red Cross messages between Sudanese refugees in northern Uganda and their families in Juba and other areas. The

ICRC tracing office received over 500 Red Cross messages and distributed over 650 for this group in 1990. The delegation also handled an increasing number of tracing requests and messages between Ethiopian refugees and Ethiopians living abroad. There was also significant growth in the number of Red Cross messages exchanged between SPLA-held areas and places held by the government, although the overall number of such messages remained relatively low.

The number of people traced by the ICRC in southern Sudan rose from 127 in 1989 to 797 in 1990. Similarly, the number of Red Cross messages distributed by the ICRC grew from 1,470 to 5,308. However, the great majority of these were sent between the capital and Juba.

Overall, the ICRC resolved tracing requests involving 1,233 people in Sudan in 1990 (including the 797 in the south). The Tracing Agency also processed 7,861 Red Cross messages.

After the port of Massawa, in Ethiopia, changed hands, a large number of Ethiopian refugees and unaccompanied minors began arriving in Port Sudan. The tracing office in Sudan received tracing requests concerning over 300 people for this group.

Medical activities

The ICRC maintained two surgical teams at the surgical hospital in Lokichokio, northern Kenya, for the treatment of victims of the southern Sudan conflict. The ICRC's Lokichokio surgical hospital admitted 777 people in 1990 and hospital staff performed 1,700 operations. In February, one of the teams was sent to Moyo, northern Uganda, where the ICRC had established a first-aid medical post on an emergency basis after Sudanese war-wounded began arriving in January.

The ICRC provided 30,000 Swiss francs' worth of medical supplies to health facilities in Yirol, Bor, Kongor, Kapoeta and Leer.

In the field, ICRC medical personnel vaccinated women and children against six diseases (measles, tuberculosis, polio, tetanus, diphtheria, and whooping cough) and gave medical consultations. ICRC vehicles and aircraft evacuated people from isolated towns to Lokichokio or Khartoum for medical treatment.

Prosthetists/orthotists also worked at orthopaedic workshops in Khartoum and at the ICRC's Kassala orthopaedic centre. Both Sudanese and Ethiopian conflict victims were treated at the Kassala centre. The two ICRC orthopaedic centres produced 631 prostheses and fitted 500 patients with prostheses, made 221 orthoses and fitted 193 people with orthoses, and put out 238 pairs of crutches. They carried out 479 major repairs to prostheses in 1990.

As part of ICRC activities aimed at ensuring proper sanitary conditions, ICRC staff participated in sanitation activities and the provision of clean water in towns in the south and at medical facilities.

Assistance for the civilian population

In 1990, the amount of food assistance supplied in southern Sudan fell in comparison with 1989, thanks to a good harvest at the end of 1989 and to ICRC and other emergency rehabilitation programmes. The ICRC concentrated on the rapid, one-off coverage of emergency food needs in 1990. There were two major relief distributions, in Leer and Malakal, reaching over 141,000 people in August and September.

The ICRC distributed 1,295 tonnes of relief goods from Kenya and 6,350 tonnes of goods from Sudan in conflict

areas of Sudan in 1990. Juba, Malakal and Wau each received about 2,000 tonnes of relief goods, and people in Leer and Kongor received over 780 tonnes and 293 tonnes, respectively. The ICRC also assisted populations in Aweil, Bor and Yirol. In addition to these distributions, the ICRC handed over more than 544 tonnes (90% of which was food) to the National Society for its relief programmes for displaced people in Omdurman and the Red Sea Hills.

The ICRC supplied food and non-food assistance to vulnerable groups in Khartoum, Wau, Malakal and Juba, and also distributed non-food assistance, including blankets, kitchen sets, mosquito netting and agricultural tools to needy people in towns under the control of the SPLA in the south, including Leer, Kongor, Yirol and smaller areas south of Shambe along the Nile river.

Another important part of the ICRC's relief activity consisted in rehabilitation work, including the distribution of over 570 tonnes of seed and 76 tonnes of agricultural tools and veterinary programmes. The Danish Red Cross implemented the ICRC's veterinary programme for the south, vaccinating more than 300,000 head of cattle against rinderpest.

Dissemination and cooperation with the National Society

In July, the ICRC's delegate for dissemination to the armed forces in Africa and the Sudanese Head of Military Justice held a three-day course for 25 Sudanese army majors and colonels. Beginning in the middle of the year, the Khartoum delegation held a series of dissemination sessions for students and staff at the Law University of Khartoum and at other institutions of higher education.

The ICRC supported Red Crescent branches in Juba, Malakal and Wau, covering the needs of up to 1,000 social welfare cases in these towns in the conflict zone and assisting in a kindergarten and education programme, and helping extend awareness of health issues, including childhood diseases, AIDS and other problems.

The delegation also supported National Society programmes for displaced people in Omdurman and in Khartoum, providing water on a regular basis and also furnishing blankets and flour. In July the ICRC handed over about 40 tonnes of relief supplies to the National Society to help it mount an assistance programme for over 4,000 people displaced by disturbances in the Darfur region.

REGIONAL DELEGATIONS

The ICRC regional delegations in Dakar, Lomé, Lagos, Kinshasa, Harare and Nairobi were instrumental in responding to a number of emergencies in 1990.

Three regional delegations in West Africa sent delegates to assist Liberians both in Liberia and in neighbouring countries in 1990. Delegates from the Kinshasa regional delegation were instrumental in setting up the ICRC delegation in Rwanda. Regional delegates were also sent to other countries (namely, Gabon, Côte d'Ivoire, Cameroon, Zambia and the Casamance region of Senegal) when civil unrest or other disturbances occurred there.

Over and above the work done in response to new emergencies, ICRC regional delegations continued protection, tracing, medical and relief activities.

All regional delegations continued dissemination activities and cooperation programmes aimed at developing Red

Cross and Red Crescent National Societies in the region. In addition, given the specific need for dissemination among the armed forces on the continent, the ICRC posted a delegate in charge of disseminating international humanitarian law to the armed forces of sub-Saharan Africa in Nairobi in January 1990. He participated in seminars held in Gabarone and Mbabane in late July for army personnel from 10 southern African countries and a seminar held in Lomé for high-ranking military personnel from 10 West African countries in early May.

DAKAR: (Cape Verde, Guinea (Conakry), Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Senegal)

The Dakar delegation carried out tracing and protection work in connection with the events that struck Mauritania and Senegal in 1989.

ICRC delegates visited 89 Mauritanian security prisoners in four places of detention in Senegal in 1990. Of these, 60 were registered for the first time. Food, blankets and personal hygiene items were distributed to prisoners as well. In addition, the delegation regularly sent staff to these prisons to carry out tracing work.

The ICRC Tracing Agency in Dakar distributed 723 Red Cross messages, nearly all relating to the tension between Mauritania and Senegal, and participated in family reunifications involving 29 people.

Casamance unrest

The ICRC offered its services to visit people arrested in connection with the strife in the Casamance region of southern Senegal. Discussions on this matter continued at the end of the year.

After civil unrest broke out in the Casamance region the ICRC distributed