

YAOUNDÉ (REGIONAL)

COVERING: Cameroon, Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Sao Tome and Principe

The ICRC set up its Yaoundé regional delegation in 1992 but has been working in the region since 1972. It monitors the domestic situation in the countries covered, visits security detainees, helps restore contact between separated family members, including migrants, and responds to the emergency assistance and protection needs of refugees and IDPs in northern Cameroon. It pursues longstanding programmes to spread knowledge of IHL among the authorities, the armed forces and civil society, and supports the development of the region's National Societies.



ICRC/APPEALS_2017

ICRC regional delegation ICRC sub-delegation ICRC mission ICRC office

BUDGET IN KCHF

Protection	3,612
Assistance	13,746
Prevention	3,071
Cooperation with National Societies	1,928
General	148
TOTAL	22,505
<i>Of which: Overheads</i>	<i>1,374</i>

PERSONNEL

Mobile staff	37
Resident staff (daily workers not included)	205

MAIN TARGETS FOR 2017

- ▶ Conflict-affected people in northern Cameroon better cope with their situation with emergency assistance from the ICRC. Some use ICRC-provided seed/tools or veterinary services to regain or bolster sources of food and income.
- ▶ In northern Cameroon, sick and wounded people have improved access to services at ICRC-supported health facilities. Those unable to reach these facilities are able to receive treatment from mobile health units.
- ▶ In prisons to which the ICRC has access, detainees, particularly those held for security reasons, have improved living conditions as a result of direct assistance from the ICRC and/or through its support to the authorities.
- ▶ Members of families dispersed by armed conflict or other situations of violence, detention or migration reconnect via RCMs and phone calls. Where appropriate, separated and unaccompanied children rejoin their families.
- ▶ Through dialogue, various events and the media, the region's authorities, weapon bearers and civil society reinforce their understanding and acceptance of the Movement; they help facilitate people's access to humanitarian aid.
- ▶ The region's National Societies – notably the Cameroon Red Cross Society and the Congolese Red Cross – develop their capacity to respond safely to emergencies with ICRC financial, material and technical support.

ASSISTANCE		Targets (up to)
CIVILIANS (RESIDENTS, IDPs, RETURNEES, ETC.)		
Economic security (in some cases provided within a protection or cooperation programme)		
Food commodities	Beneficiaries	81,000
Essential household items	Beneficiaries	42,000
Productive inputs	Beneficiaries	36,000
Services and training	Beneficiaries	72,000
Water and habitat (in some cases provided within a protection or cooperation programme)		
Water and habitat activities	Beneficiaries	80,012
Health		
Health centres supported	Structures	3
WOUNDED AND SICK		
Water and habitat		
Water and habitat activities	Number of beds	210

CONTEXT

The conflict in connection with the activities of the armed group that calls itself Islamic State's West Africa Province (also known as Jama'atu Ahlis Sunna Lidda'awati wal-Jihad or Boko Haram) continues throughout the Lake Chad region. Cameroon – along with its neighbours Chad, Niger and Nigeria – maintains its support for combat operations against the armed group by sending troops (see *African Union*). The spillover effects of the conflict continue to affect IDPs, refugees and residents of host communities in the north, and humanitarian needs continue to grow.

Central African refugees are still present in eastern Cameroon and northern Congo as the overall security situation in the Central African Republic (hereafter CAR) remains fragile.

In the Congo, particularly in the Pool region, political tensions occasionally culminate in violence, leading to arrests and episodes of temporary displacement.

Political concerns and socio-economic frustrations persist throughout the region; governments maintain tight security measures in response to, and to forestall, insecurity and unrest.

HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

In 2017, the ICRC will continue to deliver humanitarian aid to people affected by armed conflict and other situations of violence in the five countries covered by the ICRC regional delegation, and by the spillover effects of conflict and unrest in neighbouring countries. It will do so with the help of the region's National Societies, which will themselves continue to receive ICRC support for strengthening their capacity to respond safely to emergencies and carry out their core activities.

In Cameroon, the ICRC will maintain its focus on the emergency needs of conflict-affected people in the north, in close coordination with the ICRC delegations in the Lake Chad region. It will aim to improve access for sick and wounded people to suitable medical care by providing financial, material and training support to primary-health-care centres and by increasing its cooperation with one hospital. The formation of mobile health units will extend such assistance to people far away from functioning health facilities. Together with the Cameroon Red Cross Society, the ICRC will distribute food and household essentials to help cover the needs of IDPs and residents affected by the conflict; infrastructural construction/repairs will be undertaken to improve their access to water and sanitation. The ICRC will help agricultural and pastoral host communities restore sources of food and income; to that end, it will provide seed and tools, and help vaccinate and deworm livestock.

The ICRC will continue to endeavour, through dialogue with Cameroonian and Congolese authorities at all levels, to secure or improve access to detainees. Where it has access, the ICRC will monitor the treatment and living conditions of detainees, paying close attention to those held for security reasons. After these visits, ICRC delegates will share their findings and recommendations confidentially with the authorities. Pertinent authorities will be sponsored to participate in workshops and seminars, including those held abroad, to help strengthen their capacity to manage places of detention. In Cameroon, detainees in selected penitentiary facilities, under strain owing to the ongoing conflict, will benefit from

assistance in the form of medical supplies and equipment, supplementary food and infrastructural construction/repairs.

With the help of the National Societies – notably the Congolese Red Cross, the Gabonese Red Cross Society and the Cameroonian National Society – IDPs and migrants, including refugees, and their relatives, will be able to restore/maintain contact through RCMs and phone calls. Where appropriate, the ICRC will reunite separated and unaccompanied children with their families, and follow up their situation.

The ICRC will monitor the humanitarian situation in the region and strive to intensify its dialogue with armed and security forces. It will continue to make efforts, particularly in northern Cameroon and the Congo, to remind the pertinent weapon bearers of their obligations to civilians, under IHL and other relevant norms. Through dialogue, and workshops and other events, the ICRC will encourage them to prevent the recurrence of abuse – by developing mechanisms for investigating and sanctioning such abuses, for instance – and to incorporate IHL and international human rights law in their doctrine, training and operations.

Relations with influential members of civil society – such as traditional/religious leaders, academics and members of the media – will be bolstered. With their help, the ICRC will work to broaden support for humanitarian principles and the Movement, in order to facilitate access to humanitarian aid for people affected by armed conflict or other violence. The ICRC will offer its legal expertise to the region's governments for ratifying and implementing IHL instruments, and for adopting or revising a law protecting the red cross emblem.

HUMANITARIAN ISSUES AND ICRC OBJECTIVES

CIVILIANS

In northern Cameroon, IDPs, refugees, vulnerable residents of host communities and returnees are struggling to cover their basic needs. Many are unable to pursue their livelihoods. Water and sanitation facilities are overstretched. Few health facilities are still staffed and functioning, making it difficult for sick and wounded people to receive appropriate care.

Some people displaced by violence in the Congo, notably in the Pool region, remain vulnerable.

Refugees from the CAR remain in eastern Cameroon and northern Congo.

Many people affected by these circumstances are unable to communicate with their relatives.

Objective

Civilians are protected in accordance with applicable law. IDPs and migrants, including refugees, reconnect with their relatives; when appropriate, children are reunited with their families. People affected by conflict and other violence are able to meet their needs and pursue their livelihoods; they have access to medical care and other basic services.

Plan of action and indicators

PROTECTION

- ▶ through confidential representations based on documented allegations of abuse, remind authorities and weapon

bearers – particularly in Cameroon and the Congo – of their obligations under IHL and international human rights law; in particular, remind them to:

- respect judicial guarantees, and the principles of distinction, precaution and proportionality
 - protect people from abuse, including sexual violence; take measures to investigate and prevent the recurrence of such abuse
 - ensure unhindered access to basic services, including access for sick and wounded people to suitable health care, in line with the Health Care in Danger project
- ▶ in northern Cameroon, help people make themselves less vulnerable to attacks, by exploring methods of self-protection with them during assistance activities (see below)

Restoring family links

- ▶ offer technical and/or financial support for the National Societies in Cameroon, Congo and Gabon to strengthen their capacity to restore family links

With the pertinent National Society:

- ▶ enable members of families dispersed by armed conflict or other violence, detention and/or migration to reconnect via RCMs and phone calls; broaden awareness of the availability of such services
- ▶ where appropriate, coordinate with other organizations to reunite separated and unaccompanied children with their relatives, providing material assistance when necessary; follow up these children to ensure their well-being
- ▶ collect tracing requests and follow up cases of missing people

ASSISTANCE

Cameroon

Health

- ▶ with the health authorities, help ensure that conflict-affected people in northern Cameroon, including the weapon-wounded and victims of sexual violence, have access to curative and preventive health care; to that end:
- train and equip National Society and community-based first-aiders
 - provide three primary-health-care centres with financial, infrastructural and material support
 - form mobile health units to assist people unable to reach primary-health-care centres; when necessary, transport patients to a secondary-health-care facility incorporated in the ICRC's casualty-care-chain approach
 - train personnel at ICRC-supported health facilities to improve the provision of services such as the treatment of malnourished people and victims of sexual violence, ante/post-natal care and vaccination campaigns for children
- ▶ be prepared to assist wounded and sick people through the mobile health units, and/or by giving ad hoc support to other health facilities during emergencies

Water and habitat

- ▶ in northern Cameroon, construct/repair water pumps and supply systems to improve access to water for some 80,000 IDPs, returnees and residents; train and equip maintenance/repair teams to help ensure their functioning

- ▶ improve water and sanitation facilities at ICRC-supported health facilities by constructing/repairing water systems; ensure a steady supply of electrical power at these facilities by giving them generators or by installing solar panels

Economic security

- ▶ give the National Society financial support and training to strengthen its ability to identify humanitarian needs and to implement and monitor its activities independently

With the Cameroonian National Society:

- ▶ supply some 39,000 IDPs (6,500 households) with four months' worth of food, in kind or in cash, to help improve their daily diet
- ▶ enable conflict-affected people to increase their food production by 25%; to that end:
- provide seed, tools and technical support for some 4,500 resident and returnee households, and for 500 female-headed IDP households (around 30,000 people in all); give them food, in kind or in cash, to get them through the lean season and prevent the consumption of seeds meant for planting
 - supply some 1,000 vulnerable returnee households with seed and tools for resuming small-scale cash-crop farming in their places of origin, for the benefit of 6,000 people, including female heads of households, widows, orphans and disabled people
 - vaccinate and deworm the livestock of about 12,000 resident and returnee households (72,000 people); enable them to obtain veterinary services from ICRC-trained/equipped veterinarians at ICRC-repaired animal health clinics
- ▶ during emergencies, provide IDPs and returnees with one month's worth of food (12,000 people/2,000 households) and/or essential household items (7,000 households/42,000 people)

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

In Cameroon, people continue to be arrested in connection with the conflict in the Lake Chad region. Political tensions have led to some arrests for security reasons in the Congo.

Compliance with internationally recognized standards during arrests, interrogation and detention remains inadequate. Overcrowding, dilapidated infrastructure, inadequate staffing and limited budgets contribute to poor living conditions for detainees. Access to medical services is restricted, and endangers detainees' health. Detainees with destitute families or relatives living far away often do not receive family visits.

Objective

Detainees, including people in places of temporary detention, are afforded treatment and living conditions that comply with internationally recognized standards. They are able to stay in touch with their families.

Plan of action and indicators

PROTECTION

- ▶ in Cameroon and the Congo, pursue dialogue with authorities at all levels to secure, and broaden, access to all detainees within the ICRC's purview, including suspected members of armed groups in Cameroon and security detainees in the Congo; remind authorities of

their obligations to detainees, including during arrests, transfer and temporary detention

- ▶ where the ICRC has access, visit security detainees, people under sentence of death and other vulnerable detainees in accordance with standard ICRC procedures; monitor their treatment and living conditions, and afterwards, share findings and recommendations confidentially with the authorities
- ▶ through round-tables, workshops and training sessions, provide support for national authorities and prison staff to:
 - bolster respect for judicial guarantees
 - improve prison management and detainees' living conditions, including their access to health care and sufficient quantities of food (see below)
 - mobilize parties concerned to address detention-related issues, such as overcrowding

Cameroon

Restoring family links

- ▶ help detainees reconnect with their relatives through the Movement's family-links services; at foreign detainees' request, inform the pertinent ministries/consular representatives of their detention
- ▶ facilitate family visits for detainees with relatives in the conflict-affected north of the country or abroad; inform the families of deceased detainees of their relatives' death

ASSISTANCE

Cameroon

Health

- ▶ work with national and prison authorities to ensure that people held in four detention facilities (around 5,000 detainees) have access to adequate health-care services; to that end:
 - supply prison clinics with medicines and equipment; provide technical support and training for prison staff to improve the quality of care for sick detainees – including those with HIV and TB – and the management of prison dispensaries
 - help monitor detainees' health, and treat the ailing and malnourished among them, in line with national standards; support the implementation of medical screening for new detainees
 - at round-tables, encourage health and penitentiary authorities to improve detainees' access to medical services – including transfers to external facilities – and to strengthen the prison health system – by developing a medical reimbursement system, for instance
 - raise awareness among detainees of common diseases, and of the health services available to them, through hygiene-promotion sessions and posters/leaflets; support the formation of hygiene committees
- ▶ to bolster prison authorities' ability to handle emergencies, provide them with appropriate material support, and offer technical counsel for preparing a contingency plan

Economic security

- ▶ help around 2,300 malnourished detainees in four prisons recover their health by supplying them with therapeutic food; give supplementary food to some 200 vulnerable detainees, including minors and pregnant women, to help them meet their nutritional needs

- ▶ provide training for the authorities at two prisons to enhance their capacity to plan budgets and manage the food-supply system in their prisons

Water and habitat

- ▶ improve detainees' living conditions in four places of detention, and minimize their exposure to health risks, by constructing/repairing water and sanitation facilities, clinics and kitchens
- ▶ train and equip the maintenance teams at two prisons to help ensure the functioning of the facilities in question

ACTORS OF INFLUENCE

In most of the countries in the region, the armed forces operate alongside law enforcement units in violence-prone areas. Several military training institutions teach IHL and international human rights law; others have yet to include these subjects in their curricula.

Members of civil society – notably traditional/religious leaders – play an important role in shaping the opinions of the general public and of the parties involved in armed conflict and other violence.

Ratification and implementation of IHL and weapons-related treaties remain slow and require continued support.

Objective

The region's national/local authorities and weapon bearers understand and respect IHL and other fundamental rules protecting people during armed conflict and other violence, and incorporate them in their decision-making. The media, traditional/religious leaders and other members of civil society help foster awareness of humanitarian issues and IHL among these actors and the wider public. All actors understand the ICRC's mandate and support the Movement.

Plan of action and indicators

PREVENTION

- ▶ continue to intensify or expand contact with national/local authorities, weapon bearers and influential members of civil society, in order to facilitate humanitarian aid and promote IHL and international human rights law; seek dialogue with armed groups to facilitate humanitarian access to people affected by armed conflict or other violence
- ▶ raise awareness of and gather support for the Movement's neutral, impartial and independent humanitarian action and the ICRC's mandate; in particular:
 - inform people of National Society and/or ICRC activities through dissemination sessions, informational materials and radio/television spots
 - organize workshops and field visits for members of the media, especially in Cameroon and the Congo, to help them cover humanitarian issues accurately
 - discuss, with traditional/religious leaders, the ICRC's mandate and its activities for conflict-affected people
 - through dissemination sessions, strengthen the ability of the National Societies – notably their youth clubs – to promote humanitarian principles and the Movement in communities, and among young people, especially in violence-prone areas

- stimulate interest in and research on IHL at academic institutions by facilitating students' participation in moot court competitions, and by donating reference materials to one university
- ▶ through dialogue, workshops, training and other events, encourage armed and security forces in the region to respect IHL and/or other applicable norms of international or domestic law; in particular:
 - remind them, especially in Cameroon – and to some extent, in the Congo – of their obligations to people who are not, or are no longer, taking part in the fighting (see *Civilians* and *People deprived of their freedom*)
 - help them incorporate IHL and/or other applicable norms in their doctrine, training and operations; to that end, sponsor the participation of senior officers in IHL training, locally and abroad
 - lobby the authorities and military and security commands to develop and improve their system for investigating and sanctioning abuse in order to prevent their recurrence
- ▶ through seminars and workshops, encourage the region's governments to:
 - ratify and/or implement IHL and weapons-related treaties, and incorporate the provisions in their domestic legislation; focus on the African Union Convention on IDPs, the Arms Trade Treaty and the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons
 - establish national IHL committees, especially in Cameroon and the Congo
 - adopt and/or revise a law protecting the red cross emblem; provide technical support to help them do so

RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT

The region's National Societies play a vital role in responding to emergencies. They draw on Movement support to strengthen their governance and management, promote humanitarian principles and carry out their core activities (see *Civilians*).

Objective

The region's National Societies have strong legal bases for independent action. They are able to carry out their core activities effectively. The activities of all Movement components, particularly those in the Lake Chad region, are coordinated.

Plan of action and indicators

COOPERATION

- ▶ give the region's National Societies financial, material and technical support, and training, to develop their ability to provide emergency assistance and carry out other core activities, such as family-links services, in safety; in particular:
 - encourage the application of the Safer Access Framework; provide insurance coverage for 500 Cameroonian National Society volunteers working in high-risk areas
 - help the Cameroonian National Society to draw up a contingency plan, and the Congolese and Gabonese National Societies to develop mechanisms for exchanging information during emergencies
 - facilitate – through joint communication activities (see *Actors of influence*) – access for the National Societies to people affected by conflict and other violence
- ▶ foster the National Societies' development by strengthening their governance and management, including of finances and human resources, through technical and training support; add to their understanding of the Movement and humanitarian principles, and of the protection due to the red cross emblem
- ▶ to prevent duplication of effort, especially in the Lake Chad region, facilitate Movement coordination, for example, by financing National Society representatives' participation in regional meetings