

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) is an impartial, neutral and independent humanitarian organization present in Yaounde since 1992, in Maroua since 2013, in Bertoua since 2014 and, in Kousseri since 2015. In accordance with its mandate, the ICRC works to assist victims of armed conflicts and other situations of violence and to promote international humanitarian law.

HUMANITARIAN SITUATION: Clashes and violence in the northern and eastern regions of Cameroon, according to figures published by ECHO, have led to an estimated 2.9 million people in need of humanitarian assistance. An estimated 200,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) have been identified in the Adamawa, East, North and Far North regions. These populations who have fled their villages because of violence have mostly found refuge in communities already in a precarious situation. This situation is adversely affecting the limited resources and livelihoods of the host communities. Access to food, drinking water and health care remains extremely difficult.

HIGHLIGHTS:

- **60,019** people received food aid
- **7,750** detainees received basic foodstuff
- **67** water points and **19** boreholes were rehabilitated in the Far North region
- **61,000** people benefited from improved access to water in the Far North region
- **19,640** people benefited from quality curative consultations
- **123** war wounded were taken care of with kits for the injured provided by the ICRC
- **2** health centers were rehabilitated in Meme and Maltam
- **1,400** members of the armed, security and prison police forces were made aware of the rules of IHL and HRL, as well as the ICRC's mandate
- **3,000** tracing requests were received, notably in refugee camps in the East and Far North.

In the four places of detention it regularly visits, the ICRC:

- built a drinking water supply system in Bertoua, and rehabilitated the system in Maroua, while others are being rehabilitated in Garoua and Kousseri
- ensured during 45 days the supply of drinking water at the Maroua Central Prison, following the seasonal and untimely cuts in electricity in the city. 1,700 persons deprived of their liberty benefited from approximately 1,000,000 liters of water through an emergency action (water trucking) carried out by the ICRC in collaboration with the Maroua Fire Brigade
- installed 4 improved hearth ovens in the Maroua Central Prison
- rehabilitated a kitchen at the Maroua Central Prison, while 3 others are under construction in Garoua, Kousseri and Bertoua
- rehabilitated a storage warehouse in the Maroua Central Prison, with 3 others being rehabilitated in the prisons of Bertoua, Garoua and Kousseri
- rehabilitated the sanitation infrastructure (in progress) in the prisons of Bertoua and Kousseri.



PROVIDING BASIC NEEDS

The assistance program aims to maintain or restore autonomy and the basic livelihoods of victims of armed conflict and other situations of violence.

In 2016, in partnership with the Cameroon Red Cross (CRC), the ICRC provided food assistance to 60,019 IDPs in the Logone and Chari, Mayo Sava, Mayo Tsanaga and Diamare. In the same divisions, essential household items were distributed to 49'187 displaced persons, while 28'566 people received support for agricultural production including seeds, fertilizers, food rations and technical support in Mayo Sava, Mayo Tsanaga and Logone and Chari. 2,322 households (13,932 people) received a cash transfer of CFAF 66,000 to meet their food needs. In total, 1'635'393 kg of rice; 658'050 kg of corn flour; 1'057'469 kg of cowpea; 413,995 liters of vegetable oil; 42'569 kg of iodized salt; 409'460 kg of Super cereal and 244'464'000 CFA were distributed.

In addition, 20'297 feminine hygiene kits, 19,259 blankets, 28,659 mats, 22,717 bars of soap, 6'753 kitchen sets, 6'929 tarpaulins, 13,806 mosquito nets and 6,753 plastic buckets have been distributed to displaced persons.



IMPROVING ACCESS TO WATER AND SANITATION

In collaboration with the CRC and local authorities, the ICRC has rehabilitated 86 water points / boreholes, which have improved access to drinking water for 31,030 people (residents and displaced) in Mayo Tsanaga, 15,000 in Logone and Chari and 15,000 in Mayo Sava.



IMPROVING HEALTH CARE

Since early 2016, the ICRC has been supporting integrated health centers in Meme (Mayo Sava) and Maltam (Logone and Chari). The rehabilitation of these two centers was carried out in order to improve hygiene, access to water and sanitation (management of organic and hospital waste, preservation of the environment).

- 60'653 people had access to quality health care
- 19,640 people benefited from quality curative consultations
- 3011 pregnant women benefited from prenatal consultations and 581 women from assisted delivery under good conditions
- 6875 vaccine doses were administered to children under 2 years of age and pregnant women as part of an expanded immunization program
- 150 people requiring treatment in a reference structure were evacuated from Maltam to Kousseri and from Meme to Mora, with the support of the ICRC
- 123 war wounded were taken care of at the Meme health center by means of kits for the injured provided by the ICRC.

The ICRC contributed to the training of 40 hospital practitioners, organized in Maroua by the Ministry of Public Health, by presenting a teaching module on stabilization and surgery of persons injured by firearms.



REUNITING FAMILIES SEPARATED BY CONFLICT

In cooperation with the CRC, the ICRC renewed its efforts to enable families separated by armed conflict to re-establish and maintain family ties throughout Cameroon and neighboring

countries. The ICRC pays special attention to unaccompanied or separated children.

In 2016, the ICRC, in collaboration with the CRC, processed nearly 3,000 tracing requests in refugee camps in the East and Far North of Cameroon, as well as off-site. The ICRC and the CRC are individually monitoring more than 486 vulnerable unaccompanied or separated children with the view to re-establish contact with their parents. During the year, 67 children were reunited with their parents, 27 of them by the ICRC with the collaboration of the National Societies of the region. 1082 tracing requests were followed up, of which 336 were closed positively. 579 Red Cross messages were exchanged and 148 salamats collected from detainees in the Maroua, Kousseri, Yaoundé, Bertoua and Garoua prisons were delivered to their families, while 21 salamats collected from detainees abroad were conveyed to their families in Cameroon. 92 people benefited from the ICRC family visits program (38 detainees).



VISITING PERSONS DEPRIVED OF THEIR LIBERTY

To ensure humane treatment of persons deprived of their liberty and adequate conditions of detention in conformity with Cameroonian law and international standards, the ICRC continued its visits to detention facilities. It also supported prison authorities with a program for the prevention and treatment of severely or moderately malnourished people in the places of detention most affected by the increase in the prison population as a result of armed conflicts and other situations of violence. This program is currently implemented in the Maroua, Garoua, Bertoua and Kousseri central prisons.

In 2016, the ICRC:

- visited 5'563 detainees, mainly in places of detention in the Far North and the East regions and in Yaounde
- ensured individual follow-up on 965 detainees
- improved access to health and water in the aforementioned places of detention
- distributed hygiene kits and mosquito nets for 200 detainees at the main prison in Yaoundé
- implemented the program for the prevention and treatment of severely malnourished people in 4 places of detention
- built a 15,000-liter water tower and rehabilitated the internal water supply network at the Bertoua prison
- provided approximately 1,000,000 liters (22'000 liters per day) of water to 1,700 persons deprived of their liberty through an emergency action carried out by the ICRC in collaboration with the Maroua Fire Brigade
- rehabilitated the kitchen (improved ovens, stainless steel pots, etc.) in the Maroua Central Prison, which has contributed to a considerable decrease in the malnutrition rate among the prison population.

COOPERATION WITH THE CAMEROON RED CROSS

The CRC is the preferred operational partner of the ICRC. The partnership was strengthened with the increased support of the ICRC, in particular in the area of capacity building of volunteers and branch managers. 52 members from local committees in the East, Adamawa and the North were briefed on the Safer Access Framework. 25 volunteers from the local committees of the Far North and 43 disaster management program officers took a refresher training session on first aid techniques, while 16 drivers and logisticians were trained on their role in a humanitarian organization. In order to promote the understanding of the Movement's action and the dissemination of the fundamental principles by CRC volunteers, 11 communication focal points of the Far North committees were trained in communication techniques. At the national level, the CRC hosted 21 radio programs. The ICRC supported the rehabilitation of the sites of the local committees in Kousseri and Bertoua and the construction of the Mora local committee's site which was provided with furniture. The CRC received 5 vehicles,

12 motorcycles and first-aid equipment that helped strengthen its response capabilities in the Far North.



PROMOTING INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW (IHL)

Throughout 2016, the ICRC maintained contacts with the armed and security forces to remind them of their obligations under IHL, in particular with regards to the protection of persons not participating or no longer participating in hostilities. 720 members of the armed and security forces, and prison police were made aware of IHL and relevant human rights law and of the mandate of the ICRC.

In Yaounde, 2 case study seminars on the integration of IHL in military operations were organized for a total of 50 officers from 21 countries; one seminar was also organized in Maroua for Cameroonian officers.

During the year, the ICRC strengthened its dialogue with national and local authorities to emphasize their primary responsibility in respecting and ensuring respect of IHL and to foster acceptance of the ICRC's exclusively humanitarian mandate. The ICRC also organized the *Cours panafricain sur le droit international humanitaire* in Yaounde where 32 professors from 13 countries of French-speaking Africa attended. 40 military magistrates and 120 justice auditors of the National School of Administration and Judiciary, as well as 300 student administrators, prison administrators and prison guards were made aware of the basics of IHL. 40 journalists and 25 members of the civil society were made aware of ICRC's humanitarian actions and IHL.



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