

LATIN AMERICA

COSTA RICA

Civilians at risk

Mine/UXO awareness

An ambulance was handed over to the Costa Rica Red Cross for use in the field by mine-clearance teams, which for security reasons, and according to international standards, are required to be accompanied by an ambulance.

NICARAGUA

Physical rehabilitation

Project of the SFD

The ICRC ran an orthopaedic programme in Managua from 1984 in collaboration with the Ministry of Health for the benefit of war amputees. In 1988, 12 prosthetists completed a three-year training course. The ICRC handed over the project to the Ministry of Health in 1993 and from 1994, a SFD prosthetist ensured a yearly technical follow-up of the project then called "*Centro Nacional de Produccion de Ayudas Tecnicas y Elementos Ortoprotesicos*". However, management problems identified by an external consultant compelled the SFD to resume full-time involvement, with the consent of the Ministry of Health, by providing a SFD prosthetist to restore the centre's national scope, production capacity and the quality of the prostheses and orthoses.

In February 2000 a cooperation agreement defining the responsibilities of the Ministry of Health and the SFD was signed. A new director was appointed and the number of employees was reduced from 41 to 31. A computerized system was put in place for the accounts department and for store management. In addition, a method of cost calculation was introduced in order to establish a price list of the various items produced in the centre. A hardware and software system has been set up to enhance the efficiency and transparency of the accounts department and store management.

The workshops were renovated and new rooms (reception, casting room) installed. The polypropylene technology was developed and the local production of orthopaedic components was replaced by better quality ready-made components from Switzerland. The components are also delivered to the orthopaedic workshop of León which is run by a local foundation called "Walking Unidos". In 2000, 312 prostheses and 664 orthoses were delivered.

Practical training focusing on quality control has helped enhance local employees' technical skills. Two candidates were selected for a three-year training course at the Don Bosco University in El Salvador, which receives technical assistance from the GTZ.

Civilians at risk

Mine/UXO awareness

The Nicaraguan Red Cross, with the support of the ICRC and UNICEF, continued a child-to-child mine/UXO-awareness programme in 2000.

Four regions (north-western Nicaragua, the border with Honduras, the central region and the autonomous North and South Atlantic region) are the focus of the programme. Two teachers in each of the 46 selected schools in these regions were trained in mine awareness, and they in turn made presentations to a total of 4,256 children.

Involved in implementing the programme were 15 teams of instructors, each comprising two Red Cross youth members and an adult coordinator. Materials such as posters, T-shirts and leaflets were produced to support child-to-child mine-awareness activities.

Two ambulances with Nicaraguan medical staff were also put at the disposal of mine-clearance teams in the north-west of the country and along the border with Costa Rica.

EUROPE

ALBANIA

Civilians at risk

Mine/UXO awareness

Records indicate that 191 people were injured by mines and UXOs between June and December 1999. In 2000, this figure declined to 35 victims.

The mine/UXO-awareness programme, implemented in northern Albania by the Albanian Red cross, reached 43,996 people, including 33,142 children in 2000. This community-based programme is also closely linked to initiatives which provide assistance for mine victims. The ICRC organized transport for 18 mine/UXO victims from northern Albania to the rehabilitation centre in Tirana and arranged for the centre to fit amputees with prostheses.

In June 2000, the ICRC and the Swiss Federation for Mine Clearance carried out a joint assessment mission to determine the extent of the mine/UXO problem in the three most severely affected districts in northern Albania, where the ICRC is promoting the resumption of mine-clearance activities. Through contacts with the relevant authorities in Tirana, the ICRC supported the NGO's efforts to raise funds towards the creation of mine-clearance programmes related to the Albanian Red Cross / ICRC mine awareness programmes, so as to respond to the needs of affected communities. Funds will be made available in 2001 in order to start clearance activities without delay.

ARMENIA AND AZERBAIJAN

Medical and surgical/hospital assistance

In 2000, the ICRC continued to support a primary health-care project in Martuni and Mardakert regions, supporting the Ministry of Health in strengthening primary and secondary health services in these regions.

Physical rehabilitation

ICRC project in Baku

Although physical rehabilitation services have suffered since the collapse of the former Soviet Union, needs have increased owing to the conflict in Nagorny Karabakh. Since 1994, the ICRC has extended assistance to a prosthetics/orthotics centre managed by the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection (MOLASP) in Baku, where patients receive free health care. There is an additional, larger government centre in Baku, also managed by MOLASP, for paying patients. Small centres exist in Nakhchevan and in Ganja but they are faced with major difficulties caused by lack of raw materials and manpower. A joint government /ICRC survey conducted in 1996 puts the number of amputees in need of prostheses at around 2,000.

The ICRC's support to physical rehabilitation activities in 2000 included the provision of 477 prostheses and 51 orthoses to patients, of whom 22% were mine/UXO victims. Training accounted for a sizeable proportion of the institution's activities. Following a two-year work/training course, seven students obtained the ICRC Certificate of Professional Competency in Prosthetics, a certificate recognized by the government; a new salary scale has been created, showing the interest and the commitment of the authorities in the programme. Six students who had graduated continued the course for a complementary third year, which should lead to a more advanced diploma. In 2000, two external training consultants visited the training programme. The course may become a model for other programmes in countries where conditions are conducive.

Through two outreach programmes in Mingachevir and Lenkoran districts, the ICRC improved access to and the quality of rehabilitation services. A database was created to enhance patient management and follow-up.

The institution also signed a new cooperation agreement with the authorities for the gradual hand over of the management of prosthetic production. In the preliminary stage of the hand over, the government

assumed greater responsibility for prosthetic production and for the patients' dormitory by the end of 2000.

Civilians at risk

Mine/UXO-awareness programmes in

Azerbaijan and the Nagorny Karabakh region

In 1999, 30 people were injured by mines/UXOs in Nagorny Karabakh. More than half of the victims (56.7%) were children. In 2000, the number of mine/UXO victims dropped to 15, including four children and four deaths.

Although the local authorities are now entirely responsible for data collection on mine/UXO victims, the data are entered into the ICRC database for analysis and use in mine-awareness and clearance activities. Since April 2000, the ICRC has had at least one experienced mine/UXO-awareness expatriate supporting mine/UXO-awareness activities.

The ICRC also visited some 20 villages in order to field-test mine-awareness materials before production.

The ICRC has undertaken no major initiatives for adults as the Emergency Rescue Service for Community based Programmes (CBMA) and the Civil Defence are well-established in communities and carrying out projects successfully. In response to suggestions by the two institutions, the ICRC supported their mine/UXO-awareness programme through a workshop with the local media on optimizing use of the media for the transmission of mine information to the general public, on television spots and fact sheets. The institution also supported the work of CBMA by providing 50 sign boards bearing mine-awareness messages and posted in various regions of Nagorny Karabakh. The feedback from the communities concerned is encouraging.

A system for reporting mine sightings has been developed within communities, who report to the Civil Defence and Halo Trust.

In 1999 the authorities of Nagorny Karabakh created the Mine Awareness Working Group (MAWG). Meetings convened regularly by the MAWG offer a good opportunity to share information with other structures involved in the mine/UXO problem and to regulate their various activities. In 2000 the MAWG,

with the support of the ICRC, organized 10 meetings.

Activities for schools/children

The CBMA's programme for children centred around a puppet show, which seen by over 16,000 children in 71 villages and 12 schools of Stepanakert. The well-received puppet show has been filmed on video for distribution to schools.

In 2000, the CBMA's mine/UXO-awareness programme trained over 1,600 teachers (including trainers of trainers), visited 162 schools and sensitized 21,528 children.

The ICRC supported the school mine/UXO-awareness programme by providing it with a broad range of materials including posters, photographs of mines/UXOs, stationery and other school supplies.

The school programme has inspired community-wide dissemination of information on the mine/UXO problem.

BOSNIA & HERZEGOVINA

Medical and surgical/hospital assistance

For many years, chronic shortages of funds have beset the health-care system in Bosnia-Herzegovina and this in both the Federation and Republika Srpska. Some progress was made when the Ministry of Health in both entities prepared and adopted a basic health-care project. The ICRC acted as an intermediary between the authorities, international organizations and health and social institutions, and continued to support this project.

Civilians at risk

Mine/UXO awareness

The number of mine/UXO victims has declined significantly, from 3,161 in 1992-1995 to 1,247 between 1996 and 2000, and 90 in 2000. It must be noted, however, that there was a rise in the number of people injured while venturing into areas they knew to be hazardous. Economic and social concerns are major factors in mine accidents, and as such the mine/UXO-awareness approach should focus on behavioural

change and on integration with other development programmes: technical and economic solutions may help lower the incidence of mine/UXO injuries.

In 2000 the ICRC provided technical support (through four mine/UXO-awareness field officers) and training to the mine/UXO-awareness programme implemented by the entity Red Cross Societies and followed up on mine-related issues. During that period, 128 instructors (local Red Cross volunteers) worked at grass-root level, implementing mine/UXO-awareness activities in response to the needs of the villages they covered.

Seven refresher-training courses were organized between September and December by the ICRC for the instructors and coordinators, most of whom have worked on the programme for several years. The object of the courses was to enhance presentation skills, contact with the media, activities based on the participatory approach, the coordination of activities and fund-raising.

Interactive activities for children

"Little Red Riding Hood": Between December 1999 and July 2000, the play, "Little Red Riding Hood" was seen by some 25,000 children throughout Bosnia-Herzegovina. Promotional materials including 6,000 comics and 2,000 audio tapes with songs were distributed as a part of this project.

Mine-awareness quiz competitions for primary school children: Held between October and December 2000, the competitions involved some 46,000 primary school children. The lively competitions included games, drawings and quizzes about the safety measures to adopt upon finding mines or unexploded ordnance.

The "Tarzan" project is a joint effort of UNICEF, UNDP, the Bosnia-Herzegovina Mine Action Centre, SFOR and the ICRC. It involves showings of the film "Tarzan" preceded by mine-awareness spots for children and by the distribution of mine-awareness posters. Throughout Bosnia-Herzegovina 160,000 children saw the film and mine-awareness footage in 2000.

Mine-awareness newsletter: 33,000 copies of the newsletter "Lastavice", prepared by children, teachers and mine-awareness instructors or people from affected communities, was published every semester in Zenica area in 2000 and distributed in schools throughout Zenica-Doboj and Srednja Bosnia cantons.

Other activities for adults and children

Between January and December 2000, presentations and discussions were organized for high-risk groups such as returnees, refugees, hunters, farmers and local residents. The sessions were attended by 107,452 participants, half of them children.

Secondary school programme

With the support of Entity-level Ministries of Education, the ICRC has introduced the mine-awareness programme to selected secondary schools. Teachers from 62 of the 96 schools in high-risk regions of Bosnia-Herzegovina attended seminars on the programme, held in October and November 2000. A mine-awareness booklet for use in secondary schools in the country was produced (3,300 copies). Additionally, sets of mine/UXO models were produced for use in mine-awareness sessions.

Mine-awareness materials for community-based activities

A broad range of materials including 2,000 copies of the book "Think mines", 30,000 leaflets, 2,000 T-shirts, stationery, stickers and badges were produced.

Strategic Framework¹ on Victim Assistance

Following the implementation of the Ottawa Treaty and its articles in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the country's authorities pledged their commitment to programmes of assistance to victims, socio-economic reintegration and mine awareness. In 2000, the ICRC liaised with various government bodies to assess the disparity between assistance offered and victims' needs. However the work mainly focused on health issues (pre-hospital care, hospital care, rehabilitation etc.) and did not include prevention, development, legal and socio-economic issues. The process later stalled and since October 2000, the ICRC has not been involved.

¹The Strategic Framework, or the BiH Standing Committee of Experts on Victims, is a State body responsible for the policy on assistance to mine victims.

CROATIA

Civilians at risk

Mine/UXO awareness

According to the government agency for mine action, CROMAC, mine statistics declined from 30 incidents and 51 casualties in 1999 to 16 and 22 respectively in 2000. However, what remained unchanged were the circumstances of the incidents: survival. Most victims were injured working in the fields, chopping wood or tending to their livestock, in other words trying to meet their daily needs for survival.

The mine-awareness programme (MAP) was launched by the ICRC and the Croatian Red Cross in 1996. The specificity of the Red Cross Mine Awareness Programme is to build a sustainable programme to be gradually handed over to the Croatian Red Cross.

- **Media campaign**

In coordination with CROMAC, the ICRC produced five television spots and 15 radio spots on mine awareness, that were aired on national and regional radio and television, thereby reaching children, farmers, fishermen and other groups at risk of mine accidents.

- **National mine-action programme Croatia**

In December 2000 the Croatian parliament and government adopted a national mine-action programme whose object is to clear all mine-contaminated areas in Croatia by 2010. The programme also officially recognizes the ICRC/Croatian Red Cross programme as a mine-awareness programme for affected populations, which is vital for sustaining the MAP in Croatia.

- **Public sector & Associations**

Specific mine/UXO-awareness activities were implemented with the Croatian railway workers (reaching 3,400 railway workers) and with the Croatian Hunters' Association via leaflets and interactive presentations.

Strengthening the Red Cross structure

The MAP is implemented in the 14 contaminated counties by the Croatian Red Cross with the technical and material support of the ICRC. In 2000, regular meetings were organized for all Red Cross Secretaries involved in projects while four workshops/seminars

were held for all instructors. In addition, interactive presentations were conducted for 96,155 participants, including 60,237 children.

Community-based projects (initiated through the Red Cross)

Multimedia exhibitions, which typify community-based projects initiated through the Red Cross: communities contribute to the content of the exhibitions in a form they choose (drawings, short stories, mine field models, children's panel discussions, etc.). A photo and caricature exhibition toured 41 mine-contaminated places, attracting over 51,500 people.

Over 41 other projects including sporting events, art competitions, concerts for teenagers, educational games, blood donation and related activities made it possible to sensitize more than 70,000 other people.

In order to mobilize and empower communities through Red Cross Societies, and to influence local authorities and the media, the ICRC continued, in 2000, to support various local initiatives in mine-affected communities.

Support to projects initiated by other community bodies

The ICRC lends support to agencies in developing their own approach to the dissemination of mine-awareness messages. In 2000 ICRC support involved:

- the multimedia NGO, NONA, for the production of a 15-minute mine/UXO-awareness film based on peer-to-peer education and also aimed at fostering the healing and rehabilitation of victims;
- media promotion and production of a video of the song "Mines are for deminers", produced with the children's choir from Petrinja;
- the locally developed interactive children's theatre performance "Ne, ne ... mi-ne", produced by the DASKA theatre, and performed in 30 schools in contaminated parts of Croatia;
- a multimedia performance, "If you can tolerate this" organized for returnees and youth, reaching some 2,000 teenagers;

The Croatian Red Cross supported the mine-awareness theatre performance "I want to live, I want to love" in Vukovar and Ilok. The performance drew over 1,000 spectators, mainly students, and representatives of various intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations.

Materials and tools

Beside audio-visual media and tools, the organization produced specific material to support national and community projects. These included leaflets (80,000), brochures (20,000), desk calendars (1,000), posters (3,000), for distribution among the population at risk, mine/UXO-awareness instructors and Red Cross branches.

ICRC support to mine action

The ICRC considers an integrated approach vital to effective mine action. As such, it supports, not only, joint local events, but projects of national importance as well. It thus supported the Croatian Mine Victims Section, and CROMAC, which organized four concerts for the benefit of mine victims by the Croatian rock band, Parni Valjak, attracting over 1,100 people.

GEORGIA

Medical and surgical/hospital assistance

- **in Abkhazia**

The ICRC provided surgical assistance to three hospitals which treated the war-wounded, including mine/UXO victims.

- **in western Georgia**

The Zugdidi hospital on the front line in western Georgia, which treated the war-wounded, received surgical supplies from the ICRC.

Physical rehabilitation

ICRC projects in Tbilissi and Gagra (Abkhazia)

Because of a lack of financial investment, far-reaching reforms and proper training for health personnel, the health care system has been rapidly disintegrating. The ICRC, in collaboration with the local authorities, has been assisting the disabled through a prosthetic orthotic centre in Tbilissi and another in Gagra, Abkhazia, since 1995. The centres are the only places to which people in need of physical rehabilitation can turn for treatment. Owing to the financial difficulties faced by both the partner and the patients, the ICRC subsidizes a major proportion of the centres' running costs.

The two centres' main activities are the delivery of services to the physically disabled (amputees and others) and the implementation of a multi-year training programme for technical staff.

- In 2000, ICRC assistance towards the physical rehabilitation of patients included the supply of 558 prostheses and 320 orthoses, 20% of the beneficiaries being mine/UXO victims. In February 2000, the ICRC introduced knee and foot components from CREquipement to the centres, thereby significantly improving the quality of polypropylene prostheses. It is too early to evaluate the increase in the life span of the prostheses. Upper limb prostheses are manufactured with Russian components combined with polypropylene technology. Through an outreach programme in Gagra, access to rehabilitation services was enhanced for patients from the Gali region, 17 of whom were fitted with prostheses.
- Eight students in Tbilissi and six in Gagra successfully completed a training course lasting nearly two years and were awarded the ICRC Certificate of Professional Competency. The ICRC/Ministry of Health certificate is recognized by the ministry of health. Seven of the graduates from in Tbilissi continued the course for a complementary third year which should lead to a higher level diploma. In the course of 2000, two external training consultants visited the training programme. The course may become a model for other programmes, where conditions are conducive.
- The national director of the Tbilissi centre, a medical doctor, attended an ICRC-sponsored four-week course in physical rehabilitation, organized by the Rehabilitation Department of the Teaching Hospital in Groningen, The Netherlands.
- A comprehensive report on the previous five years of collaboration between the Georgian Government and the ICRC was produced, leading to in-depth discussions with the Georgian authorities. A new cooperation agreement was signed, following which the technical/managerial responsibilities for the Gagra centre were handed over to the local partner.

Civilians at risk

Mine/UXO awareness

Because HALO Trust, a British mine-clearance NGO working in this region, runs a mine/UXO-awareness programme, it is unnecessary for the ICRC to establish a programme which might duplicate efforts. However, as part of its objective to lend support to mine-awareness programmes in western Georgia, the ICRC agreed to assist HALO Trust by incorporating their presentation into the ICRC/Georgian Red Cross dissemination sessions. HALO Trust had experienced difficulties in obtaining access to schools for displaced children in Zugdidi district. On the other hand, the ICRC was kept informed of the land mine/UXO situation through regular meetings and discussions with HALO Trust.

RUSSIAN FEDERATION (CHECHNYA)

Medical and surgical/hospital assistance

The ICRC supported a total of 18 hospitals in Chechnya and surrounding republics. These hospitals provide emergency medical and surgical care for war wounded, including mine victims. The ICRC assistance included pharmaceuticals, surgical instruments, equipment and hospital consumables.

Civilians at risk

Mine/UXO awareness

An assessment mission carried out in early July 2000 highlighted the need for a mine-awareness programme in the northern Caucasus. Eight ICRC field officers were trained in the collection of information on mine/UXO casualties in Chechnya, Ingushetia and Daghestan. So far, six ICRC mine-awareness officers from the same areas have been trained to run community-based mine/UXO-awareness activities specifically targeting children, teachers and adults in camps for displaced people. Two field officers based in Nazran, in Ingushetia run mine-awareness activities for adults and develop materials such as posters and leaflets.

A field officer stationed in Nalchik, in the Republic of Kabardino-Balkaria, has been working with children and teachers from Chechnya.

Mine/UXO-awareness activities for the benefit of children include cartoons and posters designed with children and depicting unsafe behaviour. In 2000, 2,481 children attended presentations which involved cartoon shows, discussions and the distribution of posters. A puppet show scenario was also designed and will be used from January 2001 to underscore the danger of mines and UXOs, and in particular to encourage safe behaviour.

Presentations on the dangers of mines/UXO and a workshop on how this information can be passed on to children were also organized for 256 teachers

In Ingushetia, presentations were organized for 480 adults within the internally displaced population.

Plans also got under way to begin mine-awareness programmes in Chechnya as soon as the situation permits.

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF YUGOSLAVIA

Medical and surgical/hospital assistance

In Serbia, the ICRC supported 40 hospitals with surgical materials to assist sick and wounded people, including mine/UXO victims.

Through delegated projects in Kosovo, the ICRC supported around 10 hospitals and primary health-care and first-aid facilities which assisted the sick and wounded, among them mine/UXO victims. The institution directly assisted the hospital of Mitrovica North, which attended to the sick and wounded, including mine/UXO victims.

Civilians at risk

Mine/UXO awareness

In Kosovo, the ICRC is the lead agency for gathering data on mine/UXO accidents. The data are collected

from hospitals and communities to determine the scenes and circumstances of accidents and the profile of victims. The information collected on each casualty is passed on to the United Nations Mine Action Coordination Centre in Pristina for entry into the Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA) database. Through regular analysis of IMSMA information, to which it has access, the ICRC is able to adapt its mine-awareness programme to the reality in the field. The number of mine/UXO victims recorded in Kosovo between June 1999 and December 2000 was 496. Available statistics show a steady decline in casualties. In 2000, the number of mine/UXO casualties slid from 72 in January - June to 20 in July - December.

The ICRC "Safer Village Plan" community-based approach received a boost in 2000 in the form of training and the recruitment of 13 local mine-awareness staff to work throughout Kosovo. Developed on the basis of a map of suspected and confirmed mine/UXO areas drawn by villagers, a Safer Village Plan focuses on identifying risky behaviour and finding alternatives.

Training began in February 2000 for mine awareness volunteers, who are selected by affected villages to develop and monitor the Safer Village Plan and mine awareness activities to meet the specific needs of their villages. By May 2000, 150 volunteers had been trained by the ICRC. The volunteers also continued to gather information from communities on the location of mines/UXOs, their effect on the people's lives and on seasonal activities. In 2000 the volunteers visited 270 affected villages and revisited 180 more.

ICRC mine-awareness teams continued to collect requests from communities to have mined or dangerous areas cleared, marked or rechecked. Such requests are transmitted to organizations involved in mine clearance, while the communities are invited to help set priorities for mine/UXO-clearance activities.

In February 2000 the ICRC signed a Memorandum of Understanding in Kosovo with the NGO, Swiss Federation for Mine Clearance. In May 2000, the Swiss Federation for Mine Clearance decided to put three Explosive Ordnance Disposal teams at the disposal of the ICRC to ensure a timely response to requests from communities for surveys, clearance and demarcation. In the course of the year, the teams han-

dled some 310 tasks (demolition of mines/UXOs, remarking of mined areas, etc.). The task of identifying priority areas for mine clearance, however, was undertaken by the communities themselves, with the support of ICRC mine-awareness teams.

Other humanitarian assistance is often vital for mine-affected communities. For the Safer Village Plan to succeed, there is need for all organizations running humanitarian programmes to operate jointly for the benefit of the people. The information gathered by the ICRC has a direct bearing on the work of organizations implementing humanitarian projects such as reconstruction, water sanitation, food and shelter distribution, medical assistance and agricultural projects. As an example, the ICRC compiled a list of villages requiring wood so that people would not have to venture into mined forests. The list was forwarded to agencies involved in wood distribution to assist them in defining distribution priorities.

Interactive activities for children

The play "Little Red Riding Hood in danger", produced by a Pristina theatre company with ICRC support to promote safe practices in mine-contaminated communities, toured 160 villages and seven towns. Based on the story, "Little Red Riding Hood", the play, which relies heavily on music and audience participation was seen by 34,600 children and 3,300 adults. Additionally, 36,400 brochures and 4,500 leaflets were handed out to reinforce the message.

In 2000, 30,400 children in 140 schools received mine-awareness information through 812 presentations including games, drawings and discussions.

The ICRC conducted 265 interactive presentations/discussions for 3,400 adults and 20,500 adult leaflets were distributed to reinforce mine-awareness messages.

The ICRC's joint efforts with other organizations in 2000 included the training it organized with UNICEF for 75 IOM staff, and the distribution throughout Kosovo of thousands of posters, leaflets and other material with these two institutions and other organizations.

MIDDLE EAST

IRAQ

Medical and surgical/hospital assistance

Comprehensive surveys conducted by the ICRC in 1999 revealed the poor state of hospitals, their lack of essential equipment, doctors' lack of up-to-date knowledge for want of access to recent medical literature, and also identified training needs in several areas. Consequently, the institution began its three-pronged medical emergency programme comprising repairs to hospitals and health care buildings, deliveries of medical material, and a training programme for qualified medical personnel. In 2000, the ICRC rehabilitated hospitals: one in Basra, two in Baghdad, one in Mosul, one in Arbil and one in Sulaymaniyah. The institution continued the subscription programme to 29 different international medical journals for the central Ministry of Health library.

Medical activities centred on monitoring the general situation arising from economic sanctions and the resulting hardship. The ICRC assisted 4 hospitals and 19 health structures which treated the war-wounded, including mine victims, in response to urgent needs. Basic surgical material was distributed in accordance with the need.

Physical rehabilitation

ICRC projects in Baghdad (Ministry of Health, Ministry of Defence), Basrah, Najef, Mosul and Arbil

Unlike the majority of ICRC-assisted countries, Iraq was once a wealthy nation, with a well-funded health-care system which included prosthetic/orthotic services. However, a decade of sanctions has severely damaged the system. Started in 1993, the ICRC's programme in Iraq, seeks to provide the country with appropriate technology to help sustain prosthetic services. The institution extends support to six prosthetic/orthotic centres in Baghdad (two), Basrah, Najef, Mosul and Erbil, and to the Baghdad Prosthetic/Orthotic School. The support is offered on the basis of agreements with five partners for the var-

ious projects. In addition, the ICRC supervises a local component production facility.

In 2000, the ICRC offered patients, of whom 53% were mine/UXO victims, physical rehabilitation including 2,807 prostheses and 1,446 orthoses. In the same period, the government managed to import prosthetic/orthotic components from Europe under the oil-for-food programme, and these are being used in parallel with the ICRC's polypropylene components in some centres. Government import procedures are time-consuming and inhibit the reliable supply of components.

Several measures were taken in 2000 to improve the quality of services, they included: the establishment/upgrading of physiotherapy treatment facilities and gait-training areas in all assisted centres; visits by a travelling physiotherapist to all centres and the provision of follow-up training and organizational advice; the compilation of a physiotherapy manual covering basic physiotherapy treatment guidelines for projects; the creation of a steering group for prosthetic/orthotic services for quality guidelines and other issues.

Four national seminars were conducted jointly with the Ministry of Higher Education on: physiotherapy for lower-limb prostheses; partial-foot prostheses; Symes prostheses and cast-taking and fitting techniques for short stumps. A meeting was convened for directors of all prosthetic/orthotic centres to exchange information and discuss quality guidelines.

Other developments in 2000 included the hand over of two expatriate functions to national staff and the sponsoring of two national staff to attend a one-week congress in physical rehabilitation abroad.

Civilians at risk

Mine/UXO awareness

Data collection on mine/UXO casualties was started in South Iraq as a preliminary step towards defining an appropriate mine-awareness strategy. In 2000, the ICRC held discussions with the local authorities and

the Iraqi Red Crescent on the object of the data collection, on future plans for mine awareness activities and in an effort to reach an agreement with the government. The next step will be an in-depth needs assessment, scheduled for 2001.

LEBANON

Civilians at risk

Mine/UXO awareness

Thousands of mines were laid during decades of conflict in Lebanon, where, together with an indeterminate amount of UXOs, they continue to pose a grave threat to people's lives and security. Concerned about this threat, the ICRC and the local authorities launched projects in 1998 to address the problem. However, since the Israeli withdrawal from southern Lebanon in 2000, greater attention has been directed towards the mine danger in this formerly occupied territory. A week after the withdrawal of Israeli forces, seven mine/UXO accidents occurred, killing five and injuring 13, four of whom had to have amputations. By the end of 2000, mines had claimed the lives of 14 people and injured 88 others. The seriousness of the problem prompted national and international organizations and agencies to intensify their mine/UXO activities, a process in which the Lebanese Red Cross has been involved from the start. The ICRC contributes towards the Lebanese Red Cross Society's efforts through staff training and the production of mine-awareness materials.

The main threat to society comes from antipersonnel mines and UXO, especially cluster bomb sub-munitions, though the threat posed by antitank mines, roadside bombs and booby-traps should not be underestimated. The most severely affected areas are those along the former front lines, along the border with Israel and in and around former military positions. Parts of the Bekaa valley, Mount Lebanon and some areas in northern Lebanon are contaminated as well. Both adults and children have been seen walking in and around military installations, sightseeing and collecting "souvenirs". Other parts of Lebanon are contaminated, therefore, the ICRC/Lebanese Red Cross mine-awareness programme must be implemented throughout the country. However, the need for mine awareness activities is greatest in southern Lebanon and the west Bekaa area.

ICRC/Lebanese Red Cross mine/UXO awareness programme

The ICRC supports mine/UXO-awareness projects of the Lebanese Red Cross primarily through training for mine-awareness staff and volunteers. The 12 ICRC-trained mine awareness instructors are training Lebanese Red Cross volunteers at field level.

In 2000 Red Cross volunteers visited 82 villages and 58 schools, where they sensitized 4,914 children. They also organized two summer camps for 360 children in Houla and Rmeish during which a special song about mines was prepared by the children.

Together with the Lebanese Red Cross, the ICRC participated as resource persons in workshops organized by the National Demining Office and the Land mine Resource Centre. The ICRC also exchanged information and attended coordination meetings with other agencies involved in mine action.

The ICRC continues to work with the Lebanese Red Cross to pave the way for a community-based integrated programme, which will combine awareness activities with the demarcation of mined areas, clearance of mines and humanitarian activities in general. The programme will take into account the needs of local populations and will include data collection, a school project, media activities and other community efforts using an interactive approach (presentations, meetings, group discussions, cooperation with other organizations dealing with mine issues, etc.). This approach has, however, proved slow to put into effect owing to political constraints and poor coordination and the ICRC will have to review its activities in 2001 if these problems persist.

Mine-awareness materials

- **Training materials:** The ICRC has produced a mine-awareness training manual and general curriculum for mine awareness instructors, and a mine awareness school curriculum, all of which have been translated into Arabic.
- **Posters and leaflets:** The ICRC designed and produced 5,000 mine-awareness posters in cooperation with the Lebanese Red Cross. Some 150,000 mine-awareness leaflets and 100,000 stickers were also produced for children by the Lebanese Red Cross.

- The ICRC financed, in cooperation with the Lebanese Red Cross and in coordination with the National Demining Office, the production of 5,000 posters, 100,000 leaflets in comic strip form, and 50,000 pocket calendars.
- The items were used and distributed in villages, schools, medical/social centres, first-aid centres, mobile clinics, shops, roads leading to former military positions, etc.
- Warning signs: In cooperation with the National Demining Office, the ICRC financed the production of 220 warning signs, to be used for marking dangerous areas, which were placed by the Lebanese army in mine-infested areas in the South.

ICRC assistance and preventive action programmes 2000

		Assistance to war victims incl. mine victims				Prevention
		Curative care		Physical rehabilitation		Mine awareness
		Medical assistance	Hosp/Surgical assistance	ICRC projects	SFD projects	
Africa						
	Angola	✓	3	3		
	Burundi		5			
	Congo, Republic of		2			
	Congo, Dem. Republic of	✓	23	1		✓
	Eritrea		3			✓
	Ethiopia	✓	3	4	✓	✓
	Namibia		1			
	Sierra Leone	✓	2			
	Somalia	✓	4			
	Sudan	✓	5	1		
	Sudan (Kenya)		1	1		
	Tanzania		2			
	Uganda	✓	4	2		
Asia						
	Afghanistan	✓	16	5		✓
	Cambodia			2		✓
	Myanmar			5		
	Sri Lanka	✓		1		
	Tajikistan	✓	6	1		✓
	Viet Nam				✓	✓
Latin America						
	Costa Rica					✓
	Nicaragua				✓	✓
Europe						
	Albania	✓				✓
	Armenia and Azerbaijan	✓	2	1		✓
	Bosnia & Herzegovina	✓	2			✓
	Croatia					✓
	Georgia/Abkhazia		3	2		✓
	Russian Federation (Chechnya)		18			✓
	Yugoslavia, Federal Rep of		40			✓
Middle East						
	Iraq	✓		6		✓
	Lebanon					✓
Total						
	30 countries	14 countries	20 countries*	14 countries **	3 countries	18 countries

* 146 hospitals assisted regularly in 23 countries and over 150 hospitals assisted on an ad hoc basis

** 35 projects in 14 countries