



# NEWSLETTER

## Old endings and new beginnings

Dear Reader,

The Delegation of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in Sri Lanka welcomes you to this first issue of its newsletter for 2014.

As we look ahead in the new year, the ICRC's priority will be to respond to remaining humanitarian needs by bringing to a successful conclusion ongoing endeavours and by starting new ones.

The economic recovery programme for vulnerable households headed by women and persons with disabilities carried out in the Mullaitivu district in 2013 will expand to Kilinochchi district in 2014. Some elements of the programme, which will be integrated with the Government's Divineguma initiative, will be implemented through community based organizations this time. September also saw the start of a Micro Economic Initiative for rehabilitees in these two districts on the request of the Sri Lankan authorities. In the coming months, the ICRC will broaden this programme to encompass Jaffna, Mannar and Vavuniya districts, with the aim of reintegrating former LTTE combatants socially and economically.

In 2013, vulnerable people including school children in Batticaloa, Polonnaruwa and Mullaitivu districts were able to improve their access to better sanitation facilities and safe drinking water following the installation of water tanks and toilets and the construction and renovation of public and school wells and well-cleaning campaigns conducted jointly by the ICRC and Sri Lanka Red Cross Society. In 2014 too, the ICRC will continue with these

activities in Mullaitivu but also in Kilinochchi districts in close coordination with the local authorities.

The inevitable consequences of a conflict, wherever there has been one in the world, is that families are separated from each other and persons go missing. This is the ICRC's experience from its humanitarian work in more than 80 countries. For families separated from their loved ones, the wait until their return, is an eternity. But, for families whose loved ones are missing, the wait for them goes on forever.

The ICRC has been in dialogue with the authorities on the needs of the families of the missing and they have agreed to our proposal to carry out an assessment to determine what these needs are – be they economic, psycho-social, legal or administrative. The recommendations arising from the assessment on how to address these needs, will be implemented in close coordination with the relevant government structures and local non governmental organisations.

Visits to places of detention, is an activity which is traditional to the ICRC's global operations. In Sri Lanka, the ICRC has been visiting places of detention since 1989. These visits aim to support the efforts of detaining authorities to ensure adequate conditions of detention and treatment for all detainees in keeping with domestic laws and international standards. The ICRC will continue with this work in the country.

In the field of international humanitarian law, the ICRC will continue to promote acceptance and respect for its principles among the

military. Over the years, national authorities, academia and undergraduates were supported with their efforts at enhancing their knowledge of IHL, including its relevance to Sri Lanka and the humanitarian priorities following the ending of the conflict. This support will be maintained through various initiatives both in Sri Lanka and abroad. The work with the Police on public order management will continue for the foreseeable future.

On a more subdued note, the material and technical assistance the ICRC has been providing the Jaffna Jaipur Centre for Disability Rehabilitation to produce prosthesis and other walking aids, will be phased out in 2014. This collaboration has been ongoing since 1999, with a brief hiatus between 2002 and 2007. We wish them the best of luck for the future.

2014 will also be a landmark year for the ICRC as it will be 25 years since the organisation established a permanent presence in Sri Lanka. At the start, its humanitarian response was to those affected by the JVP uprising in the South and then to those affected by the conflict with the LTTE in the North and in the East. It is a time for the ICRC to not only reminisce about its contribution to protect the lives and dignity of those affected by the conflicts of the past, but also reflect on the challenges of its humanitarian journey which has evolved over the years. We salute those members of staff who made this journey possible.

We wish our Readers a productive year.



ICRC

## Nepal:

# How families with missing relatives overcome societal taboos

**“The meetings give a sense of solidarity because they give families a forum to discuss common issues - be they economic, health or children’s education”**

It was late afternoon. A motley crowd had gathered at Pathari, a roadside town en route to Dharan in Eastern Nepal. Ringed by the crowd was a young woman running around in a demented frenzy. Two other women join her. The words of one woman has a calming effect on her.

The women are actors in a street drama produced by the Women’s Rehabilitation Centre. WOREC as it is widely known is an organisation in Nepal, which works with marginalised communities to promote social justice.

“The drama is a depiction of the social stigma women have to face after their husbands go missing”, explains Kamal Koirala, a Programme coordinator with WOREC. Koirala is referring to mothers and wives whose sons and husbands disappeared during the decade long conflict in Nepal and whose whereabouts remain unknown. The conflict ended in 2006 but it left around 17, 000 people dead. Another 3800 people were reported missing.

Street dramas are one part of a larger accompaniment Programme for which WOREC is the main implementing partner. The accompaniment or Hateyamalo programme, which in Nepalese means join hands together, is a comprehensive support programme which was started by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in Nepal for families of missing persons and encompasses psychosocial, legal, administrative, and religious activities. It started as a pilot project in the West of Nepal in 2010 due to the high number of missing persons in the region and expanded to the country’s mid and Eastern regions,

where it is ongoing in 15 districts, benefiting around 382 families. The Programme expects to reach another 252 families in 10 more districts.

In Nepal, which has a culture based on tradition and religion, wives of missing persons have to overcome many constraints, especially when it comes to getting things done, even routine matters.

Reena Meecha who lives in Jhapa, Biratnagar and benefited from the Hateyamalo programme when it was extended to the East of Nepal, elaborates on the constraints she faced. “One night, during the conflict, a group of men came home and took my husband away. I have had no news from him since that day. Suddenly I had to do everything by myself”. The ravages of life show on her petite frame. “Life became a struggle for my daughter, son and I. My son is epileptic and needs special care”. The Hateyamalo programme helped her to focus on her needs and she was able to enter her daughter into a school, and sort out her son’s medical matters. She was encouraged to apply for the NPR three lakhs of interim relief given by the Ministry of Peace and Reconstruction to relatives of those who died or went missing in the conflict. The Ministry, a special agency set up after the end of hostilities, deals with the needs of the victims of the conflict, including families of the missing, among its other tasks.

The Hateyamalo programme has brought together the resources of a network of local and national agencies to support the families because a single organisation is unable to meet the diverse needs of the families of the missing.

Reena, who wants to buy a plot of land to cultivate with the interim relief she got, also draws strength from the support group meetings she attends. These support groups are made up of local networks of families of missing. “We meet about seven or eight times every year”, explains Reena. The meetings give a sense of solidarity because it gives families a forum to discuss common issues - be they economic, health or children’s education. At the last meeting we had, we talked about a suggestion to build a commemoration monument for our missing loved ones on State land”. Memorials help bring about closure for these families.

“The support groups are one feature of the Programme”, explains Tankadevi, an accompanier who coordinates activities between beneficiaries and other stakeholders. Around fifty percent of the Programme’s accompaniers themselves have a relative who is missing. Being an accompanier has been cathartic for Tankadevi whose husband went missing during Nepal’s conflict.

“I know whatever I do will not bring my husband back. But, I am happy to support others who have experienced a loss similar to mine”, says this mother of two whose family looks after her children while she dedicates her time to the Programme.

Many kilometres away in Morang, also in the east of Nepal, Koirala chairs another support group meeting. Twenty one families, whose relatives remain unaccounted for, are present at the discussion which centres on erecting a monument. Koirala weighs in with his advice. An elderly man in the group, whose son is missing brings up his daughter in law’s marital status. She is being ostracised by the community they live in because of it.

“The Programme empowers these people to bring their problems out into the open”, explains Koirala. “As a group, they are able to find solutions and it brings them a lot of emotional relief”.

# NEEDS OF THE FAMILIES OF MISSING: PERSPECTIVES FROM NEPAL

Mr Kasi Nath Marasini heads the Relief and Rehabilitation Unit within the Ministry of Peace and Reconstruction (MoPR) in Nepal. The Ministry was established in 2007, one year after the conflict in Nepal ended. The Relief and Rehabilitation Unit is responsible for releasing the relief to the victims of the conflict, including the families of missing persons.

Here, Mr Marsini gives an insight into how Nepal began addressing the needs of families of the missing and the challenges the country faced.



## **What prompted Nepal to address the issue of the needs of families of missing?**

At the end of the conflict, there were missing persons from both parties to the conflict (government authorities and the Maoists). It was easy to identify persons who were killed, making it possible to give their families compensation or provide reparation. But, the missing were not declared because their fate was unclear. Their families wanted to know the fate and whereabouts of their loved ones. The international organisations lobbied the Government to provide answers. That is how it all began.

## **How did Nepal set about doing it?**

Under these circumstances, the Nepal government formed a task force at central level to determine the fate of those who had gone missing. This task force worked for five years, initially at district level and at the end presented their findings to the Government. After verification, the Government sent the report to this unit- Relief and Rehabilitation Unit (RRU) that had been created in 2007 within the Ministry of Peace and Reconstruction (MoPR). The RRU cross checks the cases forwarded from the respective District Administrative Offices (DAO) before releasing the funds.

Before the cases are forwarded to the RRU, the DAO undertakes steps to verify the

information provided by the families. A family must first fill in an application and submit it to the concerned DAO which is then thoroughly cross checked and discussed by a Local Peace Committee within each district (comprising of political parties, civil societies and human right activists). The LPC enquires from the villagers, the Village Development Committee, the local Police and various sources to verify the information. After verification, the file is sent back to the DAO which is then approved by the Chief District Officer before forwarding to the RRU.

## **What do you think is most important for these families?**

The families have many needs. First, they want to clarify the fate and whereabouts of their loved ones. There was a lot of international pressure. So the Government took initial steps to establish the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, provided for in the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, but which is still under discussion.

The families also have economic needs. The Government attempts to address these needs by providing families of persons killed or missing with NPR ten lakhs as an interim relief. This is not compensation. So far they have received only NPR three lakhs. In 2014, the Government plans to release an additional NPR two lakhs. Currently, the Government is discussing about providing the remaining NPR five lakhs as shares in the Upper Tamakoshi Hydro Power project. The use of these shares and the right to sell them, which if approved, will be specified in the guidelines. Another need of the families will be psycho-social support. Although families of the victims of conflict suffer from trauma, there are some families who suffer from severe mental health problems and from social tensions, mainly within their community. Other provisions are for families with children under the age of 18, who are eligible for an educational scholarship while single women receive a one- off allowance of NPR 25, 000. Furthermore, children who become orphans as a result of losing both, or, one of their parents due to the conflict and the other parent died soon after or left the child after remarrying, receive a monthly allowance of NPR 5,000 until the age of 18.

## **What were the challenges you were faced with when addressing this issue?**

Clarifying the fate of the missing remains the first challenge. The proper allocation of the resources, breaking them down appropriately is not always easy. Finally, it is not clear for all the families which category they have to apply under - the category of the missing or under the category of the killed (previously, a wife of a missing person was not entitled to the single woman allowance, hence a number of them applied under the killed category. After much lobbying with the Government, this assistance is now available for wives of the missing as well).

## **Is there a correlation between peace and addressing humanitarian needs such as the needs of these families?**

Peace is necessary and it is related no doubt to the satisfaction of the needs of the families of the missing. On the other hand, humanitarian needs are enormous and the Government can only cover some of them.

## **Is the death certificate an absolute must-have document for the families to be eligible for interim relief?**

A death certificate is not compulsory even when you apply as a family of someone who has been killed.

## **What kind of support from national and international organizations has been received by Nepalese authorities?**

A "Nepal Peace Trust Fund" was created. It was mainly funded by the European Union and Scandinavian countries, but also other countries as well as some international NGOs and the Government of Nepal.

## **Learning from Nepal's experience of addressing the needs of families of missing, what advice can you share with other countries where such needs prevail?**

There are two main lessons which were learnt. One is that the definition of a missing person must be clear from the beginning, and it should not be changed thereafter. Once defined, the Government can take the necessary action. Money is not everything. Families have other needs too, such as vocational training.

# REGENERATING LIVELIHOODS FOR SUSTAINABLE FUTURES



Sylvester Worthington/ICRC

The regeneration of livelihoods is among many humanitarian consequences that have to be addressed when a conflict ends.

Selvaranee at her vegetable stall in the local market in Puthukudyiruppu. 2013

In the Oddusuddan and Puthukudyiruppu divisions in Mullaitivu district, an Economic Recovery Programme has assisted 650 vulnerable households headed by women and persons with disabilities (approximately 3250 people) to start or consolidate a sustainable livelihood. Around 70% of these beneficiaries are able to cover their daily expenses from their earnings, including some who used their income to repair their houses or to pay for their children's education.

After Selvaranee (41) lost her husband and son to the conflict the responsibility of fending for herself and her daughter fell on her.

"When my daughter and I resettled in Puthukudyiruppu, life was a struggle", she points out. "I didn't have a job and therefore I had no income". She found it difficult to support her daughter who attends a local school.

Although life got better after she found work as a helper in a vegetable stall in the local market, she still didn't have enough money to give her daughter a good education or for them to have a decent standard of living.

As a Programme beneficiary, she became eligible for a cash grant to start a livelihood of her choice and she opened her own vegetable stall in the Puthukudyiruppu market.

The needs assessment carried out at the beginning of the Programme, identified households headed by women like Selvaranee and persons with physical disabilities like Selvaratnam as being the most vulnerable.

Selvaratnam, 40, was left with a debilitating leg injury after he got caught in the cross fire during the conflict. Although he had an operation on his leg, he lost the strength in it and has been unable to walk normally since. Nevertheless, he still counts himself lucky he did not lose his leg. The Programme helped him consolidate his clothes business.

"I was able to rent a permanent space in the marketplace from the local council with the



Sylvester Worthington/ICRC

**Selvaratnam shows off his products in his shop.  
Puthukudyiruppu 2013**

cash grant I got and buy better quality clothes from wholesale outlets in Colombo and the suburbs," explains Selvaratnam. "Earlier I used to cycle around Puthukudyiruppu selling ready made clothes I bought with a part of my wife's earnings as a pre school teacher".

The beneficiaries of the Programme receive two cash instalments they can use for a variety of income generating activities such as agriculture, livestock farming, fisheries and small business industry services such as weaving, communication centres and beauty salons. The first instalment is for the preparatory business start up work and if this is implemented according to the business plan, they receive the second instalment.

"The social and economic change the Programme has brought to the lives of the beneficiaries is invaluable", says MSM Kamil, who heads the ICRC's livelihoods department. "They will experience changes in lifestyle from improvement in their income, food consumption and living standards".

Selvaranee concurs. "I earn a steady income of around LKR 500 a day" she says. "My average monthly income of about LKR 15000 is enough for my daughter and I to live a good life".

According to Selvaratnam, compared to what he was earning before, his turnover is around LKR 100,000 a month during the festive season of which his profits are between LKR 25,000 to 30,000.

The ICRC implemented the Economic Recovery Programme in partnership with the Sri Lanka Red Cross Society and the local District and Divisional Secretariats.

## The ICRC implemented the Economic Recovery Programme in partnership with the Sri Lanka Red Cross Society and the local District and Divisional Secretariats.

With the Programme completing in March 2014, Kamil is confident the beneficiaries will be able to carry on their livelihood activities independently.

Meanwhile, a Micro Economic Initiative launched earlier in September on the request of the office of the Commissioner General of Rehabilitation to assist former LTTE cadres who have been rehabilitated with their social and economic integration will reach more than 150 beneficiaries like Arumugam Selvam. In 2014 it will benefit 300 rehabilitees.

Selvam returned to live in Puthukudyiruppu with his sister and her family after his rehabilitation. Like Selvaratnam he too has a physical disability from the conflict. He however was not as lucky because he lost his leg and had to be fitted with a prostheses.

"After I returned to Puthukudyiruppu I started a poultry farm with the cash grant I received", says Selvam. He started by buying 50 chicks and building a cage for them. Selvam expects to collect between 40 to 50 eggs every day, which would provide him with an income of about LKR 700.

Selvam is ambitious. He wants to expand his business, build a house and eventually to marry.

According to Kamil, the key to the success of these Programmes was their bottom-up, needs based approach. "The beneficiaries reliance on a well-developed network of relevant institutions contributed", he adds.

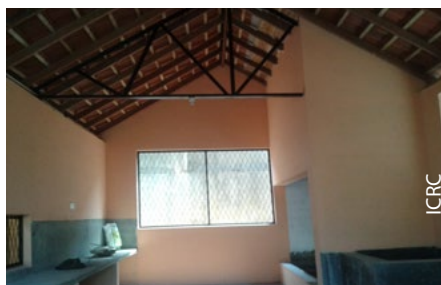


Sylvester Worthington/ICRC

**Selvam has ambitions to develop his poultry farming business.  
Puthukudyiruppu 2013**

# FACTOID OF ICRC'S ACTIVITIES FOR 2013

## IMPROVING CONDITIONS OF DETENTION AND TREATMENT OF DETAINEES



The ICRC supports the Batticaloa prison authorities to construct a kitchen in the prison.

Batticaloa 2013

The ICRC delegation in Sri Lanka regularly visited prisons and rehabilitation centres, including the recently opened Kandakadu Rehabilitation Centre for drug offenders, as well as police stations and places of detention under the Terrorist Investigation Division (TID). In conformity with its strictly humanitarian

mandate worldwide, the purpose of these visits is to ensure adequate treatment, improve conditions of detention and respect for judicial guarantees, as well as to facilitate family contacts. Following its visits, the ICRC shares on a confidential and bilateral basis any findings with the detaining authorities.

- In 2013, 834 detainees, including those held in temporary places of detention and special police units, were individually visited during 53 visits to 27 places of detention;
- 10,200 inmates received hygienic items, clothing, blankets, books and recreational items during this year;
- Around 1,800 detainees benefited directly from the ICRC's infrastructure support to places of detention. Among the work carried out was the construction of a visitor's hut in the Boosa TID detention centre and a kitchen in the Batticaloa prison. At the New Magazine prison, the roofs of two wards were reconstructed and three additional wards were equipped with heat insulation material.

## HELPING DETAINEES AND THEIR FAMILIES TO STAY CONNECTED

- During the year 2013, the ICRC paid a transport allowance to families of 932 detainees to visit their relative in detention and for 35 released detainees to return home.

## BOOSTING THE INCOME OF VULNERABLE HOUSEHOLDS AND MEETING THEIR WATER AND SANITATION NEEDS



A rehabilitee in the fancy goods store he opened with his cash grant.  
Puthukudiyiruppu 2013



An open dug well under construction in Kiran, Batticaloa south. 2013

- Six hundred and fifty vulnerable households headed by women & persons with disabilities in Mullaitivu district were given cash grants to start sustainable livelihood activities;

- One hundred and fifty two released rehabilitees (former LTTE members) who returned home from rehabilitation centres received cash grants to start livelihood projects

to facilitate their reintegration into society;

- More than 8,200 vulnerable persons including school children in the Batticaloa and Polonaruwa districts either regained access or improved their access to safe drinking water with the construction of dug wells and well cleaning campaigns conducted by the ICRC and the Sri Lanka Red Cross Society (SLRCS). In the Mullaitivu district, close to 4000 people, including school children have improved access to safe drinking water and sanitation facilities following the installation of water tanks and the construction of toilets as well as the construction and rehabilitation of dug wells carried out jointly by the ICRC and SLRCS.
- In Batticalao Kiran DS division, more than 1000 public have access to safe drinking water after the ICRC constructed and renovated dug wells.

## COLLABORATION WITH THE SRI LANKA POLICE DEPARTMENT TO INTEGRATE HUMANITARIAN PRINCIPLES INTO TRAINING, DOCTRINE AND PRACTICES

- More than 80 trainers and 147 station OIC's participated in train-the-trainer courses and benefited from a resource centre set up with ICRC support;
- Nearly 825 police officers including newly recruited female inspectors and Tamil police officers, received training on community oriented public order management linked to

the use of force and firearms;

- An officer from the Sri Lanka Police Department and an officer from the Special Task Force attended an ICRC regional police seminar in Indonesia during November 2013. In-depth discussions and presentations took place surrounding 'public communication linked to public order management'.



Tamil speaking police recruits at a training at the Kalutara Police Training College. 2013

## COOPERATION WITH THE SRI LANKA RED CROSS SOCIETY



Sri Lanka Red Cross volunteers in Galle and Matara at the rapid assessment and boat riding training. 2013

Disaster response teams were trained in First Aid, search and rescue and rapid assessment to strengthen their emergency preparedness. This involved around 100 volunteers who were trained at the training centres in Anuradhapura and Bentota set up with ICRC support.

- The ICRC provided technical and material support to the Sri Lanka Red Cross Society (SLRCS) to conduct a workshop on Restoring Family Links. Sixteen volunteers and one Branch Executive Officer benefited from the workshop aimed at strengthening their skills in this area of work;

- The SLRCS was able to re-establish its Kilinochchi and Mullaitivu branches with assistance from its partners in the Red Cross Movement;

- The ICRC supported the SLRCS to raise awareness on humanitarian values and fundamental principles of the Red Cross Movement at community level. Around 10,000 members of the public participated at these sessions.

## IMPROVING THE MOBILITY OF DISABLED PERSONS

- In 2013, the ICRC provided the Jaffna Jaipur Centre for Disability Rehabilitation with material and technical support to produce 297 prostheses and 278 orthoses. More than 1500 patients benefited from these and other services provided by the Centre;
- With the support of the ICRC, the Navajeevana Centre in the South, produced 23 prostheses and 46 orthoses for 69 amputees.

## PROMOTION AND DISSEMINATION OF INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW (IHL)



SATS alumnae meet in Colombo to exchange their knowledge of IHL. 2013

- The ICRC sponsored the participation of ten representatives from the Attorney General's office, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Justice, Legal Draftsmans Department, Ministry of External Affairs, academics and military person at the 23rd South Asia Teaching Session (SATS) on IHL which was held in Dhaka, Bangladesh while 24 representatives attended a Colombo based teacher training session on IHL;

- The Jaffna University team won the national round of the moot court competition on IHL, conducted in collaboration with the Faculty of Law, University of Colombo. The team also participated in the regional rounds in New Delhi at which they won the award for the Best Advocate;

- The ICRC facilitated a meeting of eighteen alumnae from Sri Lanka for an exchange of views and to enhance their knowledge on contemporary IHL issues and topics;

- The ICRC participated in the second National IHL Committee meeting for 2013, which took place on the 12th of December. Discussions revolved around the status of the translation of the Geneva Conventions to local languages and other initiatives by the Committee concerning the respect and promotion of IHL in the country.

- UN peace -keeping contingents were briefed on the mandate of the ICRC and its activities worldwide as well as the principles of IHL which are applicable to UN Peace Support Operations. These briefings were attended by over 2200 members of the security forces who were to be deployed in Lebanon and Haiti;

- Two, three day advanced seminars on IHL were conducted at Sir John Kotelawala Defence University for nearly 65 IHL instructors from the Army, Navy and Air Force;

- A three-day workshop on IHL was conducted at the Defence Services Command and Staff College for over 100

officers of the tri forces. Officers from India, Nepal, Sudan, Indonesia, Malaysia, Pakistan, Rwanda, Maldives, Senegal and Bangladesh also participated in these sessions;

- Around one hundred Commanding Officers and Second in Command from the Army participated in IHL refresher courses, while nearly 40 civil military liaison officers underwent training;

- More than 200 senior and Army officers learnt more about relevant norms and standards on law enforcement during dedicated workshops at Security Forces headquarters in Jaffna, Mullaitivu and in the East;

# Enabling access to effective health care against the odds

Thousands of wounded and sick people can be denied effective health care when ambulances are hijacked or held up at check points, health-care personnel are threatened, kidnapped, injured or killed or when hospitals are damaged by fighting or combatants enter them looking for their enemies.

Over the last two years, ICRC teams in the field, who often witnesses or receive first-hand accounts of attacks on hospitals and health-care personnel, and patients who are deprived of access to health care, have been gathering data on these incidents in a more systematic way than before. Up to now, more than 1,650 violent incidents have been recorded in 23 countries.

Enabling secure access to health care in conflicts and other emergencies goes back to the very heart of the identity of the Red Cross Movement. According to international humanitarian law, the red cross emblem is protected and buildings and personnel authorized to wear it should not be targeted. But this is often far from the reality.

The Health Care in Danger campaign is a four year initiative of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and is led by the ICRC. It attempts to address the widespread and severe impact of illegal and sometimes violent acts that obstruct the delivery of health care in armed conflicts and other emergencies.

Since the launch of the program at the 31st International Red Cross and Red Crescent Conference in 2011, the ICRC has been bringing together health professionals, military personnel, States, policymakers and humanitarian actors,

for practical recommendations to ensure the safe delivery of health care and for their concrete implementation. The objective of this is to strengthen protection for the sick and wounded and to improve access to and delivery of impartial health care.

As part of this process, the ICRC with Governments and National Societies of the Red Cross and Red Crescent movement co-hosted several workshops and collected recommendations.

avoiding or minimizing incidental damage that may be caused when attacking military objectives in the vicinity of health-care facilities.

There are other expert workshops in the campaign, scheduled for 2014. The ICRC will report on the campaign's progress at the 32nd International Red Cross and Red Crescent Conference in 2015.



Violence against health care workers, medical facilities and patients is one of the most serious humanitarian challenges in the world today. Picture shows Red Cross volunteers evacuating wounded people during a violent demonstration in Madagascar.

Some of these recommendations stemming from the last workshop held in Australia were the following:

Avoiding or minimizing delays on the ground during transportation of sick and wounded in the event of ground movement controls conducted in particular through roadblocks or checkpoints, avoiding or limiting the negative impact of military search operations on hospitals and

**HEALTH CARE IN DANGER** **IT'S A MATTER OF LIFE & DEATH**



## THE ICRC'S MISSION STATEMENT

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) is an impartial, neutral and independent organization whose exclusively humanitarian mission is to protect the lives and dignity of victims of armed conflict and other situations of violence and to provide them with assistance. The ICRC also endeavours to prevent suffering by promoting and strengthening humanitarian law and universal humanitarian principles. Established in 1863, the ICRC is at the origin of the Geneva Conventions and the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. It directs and coordinates the international activities conducted by the Movement in armed conflicts and other situations of violence.