



**ICRC**

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# BULLETIN

REGIONAL DELEGATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS IN NAIROBI



*School children in Turkana take a break from a lesson*

## Sharing responsibilities in times of need

**W**ith 2006 having ended and 2007 dawning, this is a good time to reflect on achievements and anticipate challenges.

I am writing these lines in Djibouti, in the hours before the first ever General Assembly of this National Society. Confident that by the time they are printed, the Djibouti Red Crescent Society will have given itself, based on recently adopted statutes, the means and the management capacity to challenge for the national leadership in disaster response at a time when the Government is looking for such leadership in the context of its reaction to recent events in the country. Together with the International Federation and other partners, the ICRC has been working closely with the DRCS to create an internal and external environment in which such important changes and a re-formulation of ambitions have become possible.

Allow me to stay for just a short while longer with our partnerships with National Societies: the Kenya Red Cross Society can already look back on an ever-growing experience of assuming leadership in

reacting to rapid onset disasters in Kenya. The ICRC has been standing by the Kenya Red Cross for many years, as it developed into the professional body it is today.

Along this way, we found together a way of sharing responsibilities in reacting to interethnic clashes in Kenya. These clashes are affecting an increasing number of persons in the remote pastoralist areas of this country. Especially when the humanitarian effects are compounded, like all through 2006, by drought and floods, a coordinated response of the partners in the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement is called for. I like to think that, together, we have made a difference for the victims in the affected parts of Kenya.

Throughout 2006, the Regional Delegation of the ICRC in Nairobi has also continued to extend essential logistical and technical support to ICRC delegations throughout Africa, with our staff even putting their expertise to the benefit of victims outside this continent, such as last summer in Lebanon.

The individuals managing this part of our operations have strived - and will continue to do so - to offer best possible customer service and to add real, measurable value to other delegations' operations.

In this sense, I wish us, together with our partners and customers, a good year 2007. And, since our operations are in reaction to human suffering: may we be less busy than during 2006!

**Pascal Cuttat**  
*Head of Regional Delegation*

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## LOGISTICS CENTRE - NAIROBI

## Fruitful partnerships between ICRC'S logistics centre and Kenyan businesses

By Anne Mueche

**H**umanitarian missions are serious business. Literally. Each mission to provide help to hundreds, sometimes thousands of people displaced by war involves huge logistical processing before aid reaches the affected persons.

With nowhere to go and all their livelihood lost, refugees, victims of war and others displaced by natural disasters rely on aid given by humanitarian organisations to survive. Often, it is the only help

In Kenya, LON works with several business organisations who supply the commodities used for these missions. Commodities range from food and non-food items, medical supplies, as well as clean water. Many people wrongly believe, that the ICRC receives the goods it distributes free of charge. John Wert, ICRC's head of LON states that very rarely will there be a concession of any kind, in terms of reduced prices for the goods.

Two local companies have benefited largely from their partnerships with the ICRC. Spinners and Spinners is ICRC's largest supplier in Kenya and the second largest worldwide. Over 700,000 blankets are required annually for aid operations, all of which are manufactured by Spinners. Spinners have been supplying blankets since 1998 when they entered into a framework agreement with the ICRC. These framework agreements are contracts entered with the suppliers for a specified period of time and are renewable under agreed conditions.

Alongside is Kaluworks who manufacture cooking sets. From their initial base in Mombasa, Kaluworks have been in partnership with LON for 10 years now. In choosing a local partner in the business community, the ICRC looks at the standards offered in terms of products, pricing of the goods and overall delivery turnaround time.

"Because most of our work is usually an emergency operation, we should order for the goods today and the client delivers them the next day to be shipped off," says Wert. For this, efficiency and speed in delivery of products is of utmost importance. To ensure that the LON supply chain meets its objectives, it is important that goods are delivered in the right quantity and quality to the right location and at the right time.

In 2004 when the tsunami happened, the ICRC was the first humanitarian organisation to land in Colombo to assist the victims, three days after the tsunami occurred. LON ordered several thousands of blankets from Spinners, which fortunately, were already in stock at the Spinners' warehouse and ready for dispatch the following day.

Spinners have a working agreement with the ICRC where they keep ready stock and raw materials on our behalf. Spinners' director in charge of Production Ram Mittal informs that there is enough raw material to produce 400,000 blankets should the need arise. Further, the factory can produce an additional 20,000 blankets in one day.

Kaluworks were asked to send 10,000 kitchen sets, which they produced in time for dispatch to Colombo. Maimuna Bisher, Kaluworks export manager states that working with the ICRC helped them to realise their full capacity, something they had not explored earlier. "Our factory has a large manufacturing capacity which



LON workers preparing to load cargo for dispatch

they will receive in a long time.

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) is one such humanitarian organisation working to protect the lives and dignity of victims of war and provide them with assistance.

To facilitate this, the ICRC regional delegation in Nairobi co-ordinates assistance through its logistics centre (LON). More than 12 countries regularly rely on a wide range of goods and services sent from LON in Nairobi to operations in Africa and beyond. These include ICRC delegations, sub-delegations and offices from next-door Somalia to distant Congo-Brazzaville and Chad. Supplies are sent by land, sea and air using the most efficient and cost effective means, at times even as far as Pakistan, Indonesia and Lebanon if emergency situations such as the Tsunami arise. LON operates three warehouses, two in Nairobi whose storage capacity is 5, 271 m<sup>2</sup> and one in Mombasa, with a capacity of 1,700m<sup>2</sup>.

"The ICRC meets the entire cost of its operations, with the logistics centre spending an average of 1.3 million dollars in purchases alone. 60% of this budget goes back to Kenyan businesses; much more than what is spent in Geneva, where the ICRC's headquarters are. We spend more in Kenya than in any country in the world," says Wert to reiterate his point.

It is no surprise then that ICRC has forged good relationships with local businesses through the years. Wert speaks favourably of these relationships, stating that he is happy with his suppliers and the standards they deliver. Contrary to expectations, specifications for the goods ordered are not simplistic and have to be followed to the letter.

"Many suppliers shy away from the tendering process due to the specifications required of the goods that we want. There are others who fail to meet them and we have to replace them with other suppliers when the contract expires," explains Wert.

## LOGISTICS CENTRE - NAIROBI

would otherwise be underutilized if we did not serve humanitarian agencies," says Maimuna. Kaluworks produces 10,000 kitchen sets every three months for the ICRC's use alongside other humanitarian agencies.

"Had we not collaborated with the ICRC and other partners, we would still be stuck at the production figures we used to have for the retail markets. The emergencies have helped us improve on delivery time, which is good for our business," says Maimuna.

Working with local businesses says Wert, should be a win - win situation for each player. "We want the suppliers to make money while at the same time they deliver well-priced quality goods to us. In the end, we want to know that we have



LON warehouse Nairobi

contributed to the local economy as well as provided jobs for local citizens indirectly."

"When the ICRC buys its products from local manufacturers, it means that it is helping to create employment, giving back to the local economy and helping to reduce the rate of unemployment in the country," adds Mittal.

Elys Chemical Industries, Davis &

Shirliff, Prestige Supplies, Bidco and Kapa Oil refineries also supply the ICRC with medical goods, food items and water sanitation material.

Kenya's geographical positioning makes it the best choice for LON's warehouse especially when it comes to transporting assistance to other continents. This is one of the countries that allows easy access by road and air to anywhere in the world," says Wert while pointing out how strategic the Port of Mombasa is for ICRC's operations all over the world. "We also appreciate the level of expertise provided by our staff members in Kenya who are highly educated and skilled in what they do," he states.

During last years' conflict between Israel and Hezbollah, eight Kenyans from LON and the ICRC delegation in Nairobi reinforced the ICRC teams in Lebanon, Jordan and Cyprus to support the operations with their expertise.

## ICRC'S work in Tanzania

Interview with Dr. Karna Soro - Head of Mission

**Tanzania has been spared the internal strife that has blighted many other African States. Owing to conflict and instability in neighbouring countries however, Tanzania is host to one of Africa's largest refugee population, the majority of them from Burundi and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). The ICRC mission in Dar es Salaam maintains a tracing and Red Cross message (RCM) service in all of the refugee camps enabling thousands of refugees to locate and exchange news with relatives left behind.**

**The Bulletin caught up with Dr. Soro Karna, the Head of mission since August 2006. Dr. Karna, a man who wears many hats, has previously served with the ICRC in Kitum in Northern Uganda, Rwanda and Sudan.**

**What are the main projects you are carrying out in Tanzania?**

Our work in Tanzania has two main pillars. The first is our Red Cross message service. Tanzania hosts hundreds of thousands of refugees from the neighbouring countries Burundi and the DRC. The ICRC runs an office in Kigoma where we offer services to approximately 320,000 Congolese and Burundi refugee families separated by war with much success. In 2006, a total number of 20,156 Red Cross messages were collected from the camps with 12,876 delivered. Of these, 26 juvenile refugees were reunited with their relatives, 13 in Burundi, 6 in DRC, 1 in Rwanda and 6 inside Tanzania.

As a stable State Tanzania also plays an important diplomatic role in a troubled region. It is home to the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR). The second cornerstone of our activities is to raise awareness of International Humanitarian Law (IHL). We therefore focus on strengthening and updating our networks with various representatives within the government and the civil society.

**What are your plans for the upcoming months?**

Establishing communication links with various groups is our key priority. We are working on having regular briefing sessions with the Tanzania Police Force to facilitate knowledge on basic humanitarian principles within the force.

Plans are underway to visit the United Nations detention centre in Arusha as well as to continue networking with the ICTR on various fronts. Additionally, we would like to develop good contacts with the East Africa Community (EAC) secretariat in Arusha as well as the future East African Court of Justice.

We also want to re-establish the trust and partnership with the Tanzania Red Cross Society (TRCS) and cooperate with them in our activities. Finally, we would like to create more awareness locally in this years' Red Cross' day by including more activities in the programme.

**What are the biggest challenges for the ICRC in Tanzania?**

We hope to restore as many family links as we can. Our priority is to restore contact between children and parents and, where the security situation in the home country allows, reunite families. One of the biggest challenges in this regard is to promote this service to the refugees and to explain the procedures to them. There are still many people who do not know that the ICRC might be able to help when looking for a son or a brother



Tanzania HoM Soro Karna during the interview in Nairobi



## LON PICTURE GALLERY



*LON workers preparing to load cargo for dispatch*



*LON driver and crew stop for a drink while on transit*



*“Let the journey begin...”*



*Head of LON John Wert inspects the kitchen sets from Kaluworks before being shipped to Lebanon last July*



*LON driver John Mbugua has something to smile about*



*Final sealing of the parcels before loading*



*Loaders prepare to get the inspected boxes onto the trolleys*



*John Wert makes a final check to ensure everything is in place*



*Signed, sealed and ready for delivery to Lebanon*

## PROTECTING CHILDREN IN WAR

### Agony of Joy

Families separated by war or natural disasters often have little hope in their quest to get information about their loved ones. The ICRC has for many years been involved in reuniting separated relatives through its Restoring Family Links (RFL) programmes. In Tanzania, the ICRC runs this service in the 11 camps along the Western border. There is also a camp in Djibouti and in Kenya, the Kenya Red Cross assisted by the ICRC runs the service in the four camps in Kakuma and three in Daadab. The experiences are touching, often evoking tears. This is one of the stories narrated by Flori Bery, ICRC's tracing assistant and Daniela Tane, ICRC delegate in Kigoma.



Reading information about the ICRC tracing agency

To tell a tracing story... it's not like a fairy tale... Sometimes there is a happy end. Sometimes there is failure. However, without taking into consideration its outcome, it is always a real story, a troubling one, with tears of joy or tears of sorrow. It gives us the measure of our weakness, of our limits, as human beings in front of what life can one day bring us.

All tracing stories are similar and yet different. They are stories of life, separation, hope and despair. No suffering can compare to that of a mother who is separated from her child, in the nightmare of a conflict, among destruction, fire and death.

This story goes back to the year 1996. A mother is searching for her child. There were troubles in Eastern Congo, and armed men came to her village. The mother had gone to fetch water when the gunmen arrived. Death, panic, cries, fire and smoke all over. It seemed like the end of the world for the inhabitants of this tiny village, here as elsewhere in the country.

The child was playing outside. She was only three years old when the events took place. A Burundian neighbour, herself a refugee, took the baby with her and fled to Tanzania. The mother returns home. Life

seems to have stopped, as there was no trace of her beloved little soul. Their house was burnt to ashes and lay in ruins. She finds out her neighbours took the baby with them across the border, to Tanzania, and she decides to follow them...

A few years later in Nyarugusu refugee camp, she will come every single day to ask us, the ICRC tracing assistants, if we

know anything about her child. Like her, there are dozen of parents. She lives in agony, but does not have any hint where the child could be, or whether the little girl is still alive... There were too many camps in this area, at that time...

We searched for the child everywhere and made announcements on radio, billboards, megaphone, exhausting every possible way. The rumours spread. We are in a traditional community, where words fly, replacing the daily news. There is exchange of information between Nyarugusu and the other ICRC officers in the camps in the area. One day, a message from a Burundian family living in Myowosi camp, came to our offices in Nyarugusu. There is a sudden ray of hope... Red Cross Messages are exchanged between the mother and the family who was keeping the child. One day, the mother has the certitude: it is her child there, waiting for her, longing for her, after more than 4 years of separation.

When they are reunited by the ICRC, in Nyarugusu camp, the mother will cry, in "agony of joy". Life sometimes, is not just simply cruel. There is always hope. It is in the name of this hope that we are doing this work. Frustrating when it is negative, but filling you with incredible joy when families are brought together.

#### CHILDREN IN WAR

**The vulnerability of children during armed conflict is recognized in both general international law, and in particular international humanitarian law, which stipulate specific protection measures for children. Children separated from their families are more vulnerable still. Apart from caring for them, an important part of protection is to reunite them with their families.**

**The following steps need to be taken for reunification to take place:**

- identifying these children among the rest of the population
- registering and interviewing them
- tracing their parents or relatives during or after the chaos of war and mass migration
- making the reunification physically possible.

Source: Marten Merckelbach  
International Review of the Red Cross No. 838

## ICRC FIELD ACTIVITIES

### New classrooms for students in Turkana and West Pokot

By Anne Mucheke

Students from Lorongon in Turkana have been using the nearest dispensary as a shelter when learning English or Mathematics; the cold floor substituting for seats and their laps for desks. There are only four classrooms in the area and priority is given to the younger students. The older ones transition from classrooms to the abandoned dispensary when they get to class five. Very soon, this situation will be a memory.

Thanks to the ICRC, four classrooms in Lorongon, Turkana and four in Orwa, West Pokot will be inaugurated early in 2007. The four classrooms in Lorongon were built to add to the existing classrooms, which hold students in lower primary classes.

In Orwa, only pre-primary or kindergarten children had access to classrooms leaving the primary school students with nowhere to learn. With four new classrooms, the pupils will learn in comfort until they get to class four.

"The ICRC will continue to offer support to the local community to the point where they can own the project and in future facilitate expansion of the schools on their own", says ICRC delegate Alexander Knup.

This will be the second school project that the organisation is commissioning in Turkana and West Pokot districts. In 2004, the ICRC carried out an assessment in these areas to see where it could assist, following a chronic situation of inter-ethnic clashes, often over scarce resources. It was found that students in the area were learning in churches or under trees while many others had fled their homes and were no longer going to school at all. Education was earmarked as a basic, immediate need.

The ICRC joined hands with the local community to design and implement a school project in Kainuk, Turkana and



Students waiting for the teacher in their new classrooms in Lorongon

Ritten, West Pokot. In both locations schools were inaugurated in October 2005. The success is evident. Today, there are 150 students enrolled in Ritten, almost five times the number of students who were learning before the construction of the classrooms.

The education project has additionally brought hope to the local community and opened doors for other partners to step in and offer varied support. One good example is the government of Kenya, which is building dormitories in Ritten for the students through the Constituency Development Fund (CDF). Likewise, electricity generating company Kengen offered electric power to the school. Pastoralist parents eager to educate their children are sending them for schooling, creating a dynamism not found before.

Aside from building schools, the ICRC assists families in both districts by providing seeds and tools to farmers of which 500 families were beneficiaries in 2006. In addition, through its veterinary program, ICRC distributed drug vouchers to 500 vulnerable pastoralists and trained 6 Turkana and 6 Pokot from villages around Turkwel to become community animal health workers. A new well was also constructed and others have been rehabilitated for the community's use.



The finished classroom at Lorongon, Turkana

"All these projects are not only meant to assist the local communities, but also to help them resettle back in their villages," explains Knup. "In Orwa for example, villagers had to flee because of inter-ethnic clashes and were scattered throughout the area. The distribution of seeds and tools and the construction of a new school made it possible for them to return to a normal life which prevailed before the security incidents."

The ICRC also conducts sessions to promote humanitarian principles and values. This takes the form of group discussions at the market place and other open air spaces where villagers watch videos as part of the session. The ICRC collaborates with the local chiefs in this venture.

ICRC Field officer Isaac Waweru explains that the ultimate goal is to meet with warriors from both the Turkana and West Pokot communities. "The warriors need these sessions in peacetime as they help to minimise civilian casualties; women, children and non-armed villagers, when it comes to the clashes. Mobilising these warriors needs a lot of trust on their part and we are in the process of building that confidence," he says.

Equitable distribution of resources in the Turkwel projects has ensured that the ICRC is received positively for its neutral working approach between the two communities.

Additionally, a bee-keeping project is one of those under consideration for 2007 aside from the opening of the two schools. "We aim at giving the local community capacity through such projects where they will be able to sustain themselves for food and even cash wise," adds Waweru.



## ICRC NEWS



From L to R: Edwine Okuta, Idris Irshad and Milkah Kithinji, the winning team from University of Nairobi at the Moot court finals.

### University of Nairobi students win International Humanitarian Law competition.

Students from the University of Nairobi beat 11 other teams to emerge winners at the 6th International Humanitarian Law (IHL) competition. Twelve teams of three students from nine countries in Africa participated in the event. The competition was held in Arusha, Tanzania from 25th November to 2nd December with the finals held at the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR).

The president of the ICTR, Judge Erik Mose, who was one of 3 ICTR judges on the 6-judge panel, commended the participants adding, "The standards of the competition this year were much higher than in some previous years."

This is the fourth win for the University of Nairobi out of six editions of the competition. Edwin Okuta, a member of the winning team stated that the victory came as a surprise to him as all the participants displayed equal potential. "We never expected to win, as it was a very difficult competition. However, we combined creativity and hard work which saw us come back with the trophy."

The winning team received a monetary prize as well as a perpetual trophy, which they hold until next year's competition. The best speaker in the final, Idris Irshad from University of Nairobi receives a 3-month sponsored internship at the ICTR.

The runner-up team, which also received a monetary prize, was University of Witwatersrand from Johannesburg. Other teams participating were United States International University (USIU), Kampala International University, Uganda Christian

University, University of Western Cape, Abia State University, Midlands State University Addis Ababa University, University of Sierra Leone, University of Dar es Salaam and National University of Rwanda.

The annual competition is organised and run by the regional delegation in Nairobi as part of ICRC's work in developing IHL teaching programmes in Universities.

### ICRC applauds adoption of UN Convention against enforced disappearance

The United Nations General Assembly in December adopted the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance. For the first time, an international treaty will require States to incorporate the crime of enforced disappearance into their domestic legislation and to prosecute and punish the perpetrators of such crimes.

"The adoption of the Convention against enforced disappearance is a sign of hope for the future. The support it received from a large number of States at the UN General Assembly is reassuring. We trust that it will be widely and swiftly ratified and implemented by States all over the world," says Jakob Kellenberger, president of the ICRC.

The Convention outlaws secret detention and requires that States hold all detainees in officially recognized places, maintain up-to-date official registers and detailed records of all detainees, allow them to communicate with their families and counsel, and give access to competent and authorized authorities.

These are all critical measures for preventing enforced disappearance and for minimizing the risk of torture and death. The

Convention also establishes the right of families to know the fate and whereabouts of relatives who have been detained.

The ICRC always insists on the above measures when it visits places of detention and welcomes their inclusion in the new Convention.

### Business and International Humanitarian Law - new publication

While business enterprises are increasingly operating in environments affected by armed conflict, few are familiar with either their rights or obligations under International Humanitarian Law - sometimes called the law of war - a situation the ICRC aims to address through its new publication, Business and International Humanitarian Law.

"The ICRC is mandated to promote International Humanitarian Law and universal humanitarian principles, and this publication essentially addresses a new audience in this regard," said Pierre Krähenbühl, the Director of Operations. "We are confident that it will help business enterprises better understand their rights and obligations when they are operating in an environment of armed conflict. This is one step in the direction of mitigating any potential negative effect of their operations on conflict."

Many businesses have policies that ensure respect for and even promotion of general human rights law, but International Humanitarian Law serves a distinct purpose. This body of law affords protection to personnel as well as to assets and capital investments of business enterprises. At the same time, it imposes legal obligations on managers and staff, and can even entail their criminal responsibility. By raising awareness and understanding of International Humanitarian Law, the ICRC publication aims to help business enterprises develop operations that respect and even promote this law.

This publication is intended primarily for country managers and security managers who face the daily challenge of running business operations in conflict environments. It also provides a reference tool for financial, insurance and trading companies that indirectly operate in conflict zones through their clients and suppliers.

Business and IHL (26 pages) can be ordered online and consulted at [www.icrc.org/eng/business-ihl](http://www.icrc.org/eng/business-ihl)



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**The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)** is an impartial, neutral and independent organization with an exclusively humanitarian mission to protect the lives and dignity of victims of war and internal violence and to provide them with assistance. It also endeavours to prevent suffering by promoting and strengthening humanitarian law and universal humanitarian principles. The founding of the ICRC in 1863 led to the evolution of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.

For further information, visit our website at [www.icrc.org](http://www.icrc.org)



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