



ICRC

# ICRC NEWSLETTER

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*Congo-Kinshasa, South Kivu province, Shabunda : Seven demobilized child soldiers are reunited with their families.*



## Dear Readers,

It is with great pleasure that we bring you our latest edition of ICRC Newsletter, a year after the establishment of our office in Tokyo.

Our presence in Japan has been welcomed by many interlocutors concerned and it is encouraging to see how well the values and principles of the ICRC—ensuring the Human Dignity and Life of the victims in armed conflicts—are shared in Japan. It is certainly not a coincidence that Japan is the first East Asian country to ratify the Anti-Cluster Bomb Treaty, which will enter into force in August 2010. The current financial and political support to the ICRC activities is also a reflection of Japan's commitment to humanitarian action.

As a yearly exercise, the Director of Operations Pierre Kraehenbuehl visited Japan to hold substantial talks with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Japanese Red Cross and the Japanese Press. One noteworthy decision is that the ICRC has decided to waive French as a prerequisite for Japanese candidates to become ICRC delegates, at least at the entry point stage. This is in line with ICRC's commitment to

recruiting a targeted number of qualified Japanese nationals by 2010 within the framework of a pilot project. The decision has been welcomed by the Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs. It will be the priority for the ICRC in Japan to translate this decision into concrete results by reaching out to as many interested candidates as possible in the next years to come.

This issue of the Newsletter begins with a description of our activities in Haiti and Chile. Amongst various activities, the setup of a website has enabled many thousands of Haitians, Chileans and foreigners living in these two countries and abroad to find their family members. This experience will be certainly useful for other possible earthquake situations including Japan.

We also touch on Chad, which has been mired in a prolonged but "forgotten" crisis for many years. Our work in Chad is hampered by insecurity as reflected in the kidnapping of one of our colleagues, fortunately freed very recently after 89 days of captivity.

In addition, we would also like to inform our readers of our upcoming geographical

priorities for 2010. In the majority of our operations, the ICRC has been present for more than one, two or three decades. Continuous presence and trust-building with the authorities are necessary preconditions for swift action in times of crisis. The case of Gaza and Sri Lanka is a good illustration where the ICRC managed to bring through assistance under the most difficult circumstances.

We finally report on the activities of Ms. Tomabechi, a JRCs nurse who has worked with the ICRC in Kandahar for six months.

Last but not least, we have recently strengthened our staff capacity to respond better to the increased needs raised by our interlocutors. We sincerely hope that the second year will be as fruitful as the previous year and are optimistic that we will continue to enjoy your unabated cooperation and support.

Yours sincerely,

**Yoshinobu Nagamine**

Head of Tokyo Office  
International Committee of the Red Cross

# From the field

The ICRC maintains a permanent presence in over 60 countries and conducts operations in about 80 nations. The following is a snapshot of our worldwide activities in several contexts, which are currently facing serious humanitarian crises.

## West Bank : No respite from hardship for Palestinians

Just attempting to live a normal life is still an everyday struggle for many Palestinians in the occupied West Bank. In certain areas of the West Bank that are under full Israeli civil and military control, almost every crest hosts a settlement, numerous physical obstacles such as the West Bank barrier, checkpoints, earth mounds and fences force people to take long detours for their daily commuting and cut their access to family and friends. It is also very difficult for Palestinians to obtain building permits. As a result, many families build without a permit and risk seeing their homes destroyed. In 2009,

the Israeli authorities demolished about 20 homes in the West Bank and another 50 in East Jerusalem. Access to electricity and water is a recurrent problem as well. Recuperating rainwater or water-trucking are the only viable alternatives.

The ICRC closely monitors the humanitarian consequences of Israeli practices and policies, making confidential representations to the Israeli authorities on the basis of international humanitarian law (IHL) in general and on the law of occupation in particular. Dialogue is maintained with political authorities,

armed forces and influential members of civil society to promote the rules of IHL. These include the fact that under IHL, as the occupying power, Israel has an obligation to treat the civilian population humanely at all times. It must ensure that Palestinians have adequate access to water and health care. It must also refrain from any requisition of, destruction of, or damage to property belonging to civilians not required by imperative military necessity. The law also specifically prohibits the transfer of the occupier's civilian population into the territory it occupies.

## Reunifying families in Haiti and Chile

In Haiti and Chile, the ICRC provides its Tracing and Restoring Family Links (RFL) service designed to reunify families torn apart due to conflict situations and natural disasters. The ICRC has also set up a special website to facilitate family contacts.

➔ <http://www.familylinks.icrc.org>

In Haiti, families were often split up in the rescue effort as they were taken to different emergency posts or while fleeing to the countryside from the city in ruins. Many unaccompanied children are now in the hands of neighbours or other members of their communities. In cooperation with the Haitian Red Cross (HRC), the ICRC encourages people to register earthquake victims at community centers or the ICRC and HRC registration posts.



*Haiti: A boy affected by the earthquake uses an ICRC satellite phone to reassure his relatives.*

In addition, the ICRC uses the radio to inform people of the whereabouts of their loved ones, and re-establishes contact with relatives via satellite phones. In the case of Chile, not only in the worst affected places, but in the hills along the coastline, where inhabitants had been forced to flee their homes to escape the post-quake tsunami and are now camping, the ICRC provides the satellite telephones to help restore contact between separated family members. ICRC mobile family links teams also visits prisons, and in response to a request from the prison service health section and in close association with the Chilean Red Cross, the ICRC provides medicines and medical supplies to meet the inmates' needs, as well as the satellite phones.

## Chad: Humanitarian work continues despite safety concerns

Since Chad gained independence from the French in 1960, the country has had a turbulent past. Recently, a coalition of armed groups drew back to their bases in the east, and small-scale clashes persisted there, fuelled by a mix of ethnic and political grievances, rivalry over dwindling resources and chronic poverty. In addition, relations between Chad and Sudan remained tense, with both sides trading accusations of supporting armed groups to bring down the other's government. The ICRC has been operating in Chad since 1978. Its activities focus

on protecting and assisting internally displaced people and their hosts and people detained or otherwise affected by the conflict; restoring family links for Sudanese refugees; and ensuring treatment for war wounded and amputees.

On February 6, 2010, ICRC agronomist Laurent Maurice was freed by his abductors 89 days after he was kidnapped in eastern Chad, where Laurent was to evaluate the most recent harvest. In the neighbouring country, Sudan, Gauthier

Lefèvre, the head of the ICRC office in Al Geneina, West Darfur, was also taken hostage on 22 October 2009 and released on March 18 close to Al Geneina. Gauthier expressed his gratitude to all those who kept supporting and encouraging him as well as to everyone in the Sudanese government and authorities who worked hard for his release.

Because security is a major concern, it is constantly being reviewed. The ICRC is taking every possible precaution to ensure that its staff can work safely.

# ICRC Emergency Appeals 2010

The ICRC is funded mostly by contributions from the States party to the Geneva Conventions. For 2010, the ICRC has issued its Emergency Appeals, which aim for an initial contribution of CHF 983.2 million to cover its operational activities worldwide.

In 2009, the ICRC strove to provide a professional humanitarian response to alleviate the suffering of people affected by conflict and other situations of violence, adapting to the most pressing needs as they occurred. This year will be no different. The ICRC's energy and commitment stem from its sense of duty to make a difference for people affected by armed conflicts and other situations of violence. Every day, our 12,000 staff members work towards that fundamental goal and their determination to succeed is immense.

This ability to continue to protect and assist the victims of armed conflicts and other situations of violence on a strictly neutral, independent and impartial basis is dependent on the support of donors. Contributions by governments (including the European Commission) exceed 92% in total, of which Japan is counted as one of the major donors (see figure1&2).

In 2010, the ICRC's biggest operation is envisaged to be in Afghanistan, with a decline in the scale of activities in Sudan, Iraq, and Pakistan (see figure3). More than 1,500 staff currently work in its main delegation in Kabul and in five sub-delegations and nine offices countrywide. The ICRC continues to respond to the needs of people affected by the armed conflict; providing support for selected hospitals; physical rehabilitation programmes; highlighting the dangers posed by unexploded ordnance; and rehabilitating water and sanitation services.

In comparison with the 2009 budget on a regional basis, decreases were noted for Africa (10%); Europe and the Americas (8%); and Middle East and North Africa (4%), while Asia and the Pacific increased by 24% (see figure4). The ICRC maintains extensive operations in Asia and the Pacific allowing it to respond to the needs of people affected by armed conflicts and other situations of violence, working with the National Society, its key operational partner.

## Internships :

If you are interested in an internship at ICRC Tokyo Office, please email or call us for further information.

Email : [tok\\_tokyo@icrc.org](mailto:tok_tokyo@icrc.org)  
Tel : 03-6459-0750

Figure1 All contributions by type of donors in 2009

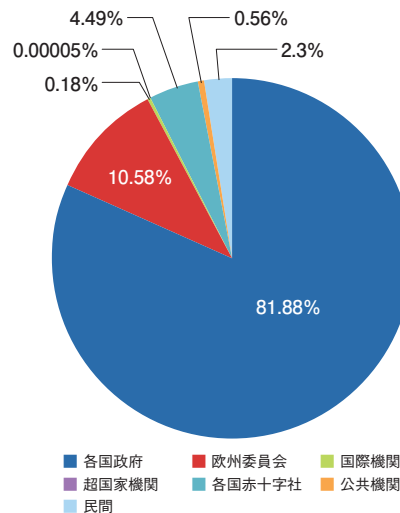


Figure3 The 10 biggest operations

RANK	DELEGATIONS 2010	INITIAL BUDGET 2010 (in CHF million)
1	Afghanistan	73.1
2	Iraq	72.4
3	Sudan	64.9
4	Congo (Democratic Rep of the)	56.4
5	Israel & Occupied Territories	52.3
6	Pakistan	48.1
7	Somalia	46.7
8	Colombia	31.4
9	Yemen	20.3
10	Chad	18.8
TOTAL		484.4

Figure2 20 major donors in 2009

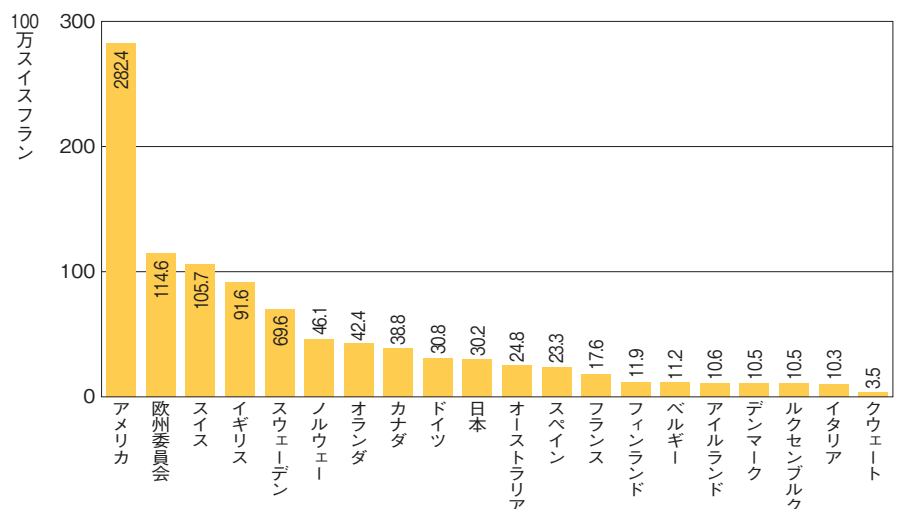
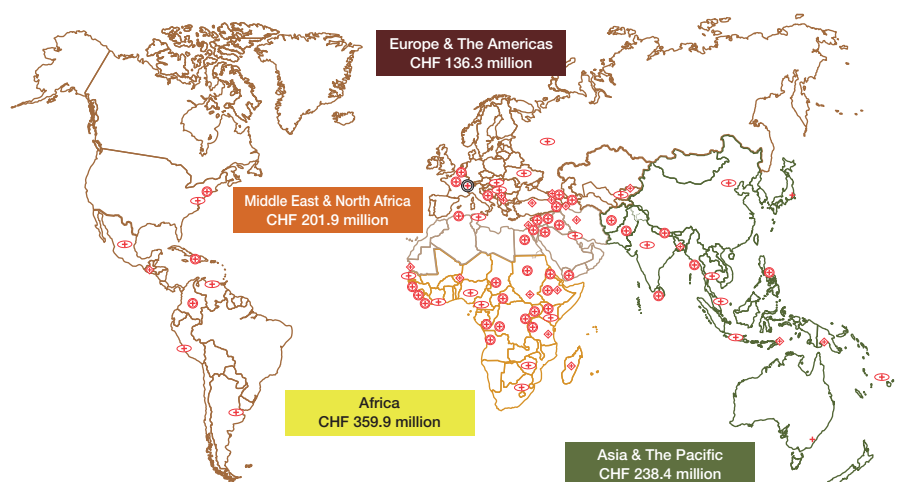


Figure4 Initial budget : ICRC around the world 2010



# International RC/RC Movement

## Red Cross nurse's struggle at Mirwais

~Finding solace in spending time with patients and their families~

For six months, from August 2009 to February 2010, I worked as a ward nursing staff at the ICRC-supported Mirwais regional hospital, the largest in southern Afghanistan. The purpose of our work there was to enrich the quality of healthcare and to provide training for local staff. In that region, the ICRC has continued to support victims of armed conflict since 1996. Though the main part of the assistance by ICRC staff in the beginning was war surgery, today we play a wider role in regional hospitals in the areas of obstetrics/gynecology, pediatrics, internal medicine, etc. Capacity building in terms of local medical infrastructure was also a new challenge for me.

Most of the patients from the region outside Kandahar need to travel many hours to access medical assistance. Therefore, the role as a base-hospital covering five provinces including Kandahar, is significant. Especially in the region where most of the residents are Pashtuns, there are very strict rules separating men and women. During my mission there, I was in charge of the women's surgery ward. Since we dealt only with women, there were not many patients wounded by war. Some

were being treated for complications arising from caesarean operations while others for burn injuries (women frequently were burnt by the flames of kerosene lamps or cooking fires while preparing food). Mirwais Hospital did not have the capacity to treat the most serious burn cases. Sometimes help came too late. Working with limited resources, facilities, equipments and manpower was difficult, and there were insurmountable obstacles.

Family ties and closeness are the characteristics of Afghan people, and I was impressed by the devotion toward their hospitalized family members. Spending time with patients and their families was a blessing for me working in such a harsh environment. I could not communicate with them without an interpreter, but I felt a sense of affinity. It gave us a deep sense of satisfaction to see patients who came to the hospital desperate for help, obtain medical treatment and eventually get well



again. These positive results confirmed the significance of our work and presence in the country.

I hope that my activities at the Mirwais Hospital had contributed to the improvement of the lives of the Afghan people so that they can live a healthy life in dignity.

### Noriko Tomabechi

Japanese Red Cross Medical Center  
Assistant Head Nurse of Nursing Division

A musical presented by the Snow Troupe of Takarazuka Revue Company

## "Dawn in Solferino" - The Life of Henry Dunant-



"Dawn in Solferino" featuring the life of Henry Dunant, the father of the Red Cross and the first winner of the Nobel Peace Prize, kicks off on March 26 at the TOKYO TAKARAZUKA THEATER. In 1859, Swiss businessman Henry Dunant was passing through the town of Solferino in northern Italy, which was the site of a conflict between French and Austrian soldiers. During this 'battle of Solferino', some 40,000 soldiers were killed in only one day, resulting in the small country church being used as a field hospital. Dunant saw that the wounded were screened at the entrance, based on their identities as allies and foes and that the troops of the enemy were left exposed to the open air. He immediately recruited the townspeople as volunteers, exhorting them to render treatment to all the wounded, regardless of nationality. It was not an easy task, and he was very frustrated by the opposition he received. "Dawn in Solferino" is a must-see, depicting as it does the ups and downs of the life of Henry Dunant, a man of passion and deep humanity. It showcases the importance of protecting human life and dignity, regardless of nationality, race and religion.

### Performance at the Tokyo Takarazuka Theater

Schedule: March 26- April 25, 2010 (Close on Monday)  
Ticket price: Seat SS: 11,000 JPY/ S: 8,500 JPY/ A: 5,500 JPY/ B: 3,500 JPY

### Access to the theater

Tokyo Takarazuka building, 1-1-3 Yurakucho, Chiyoda-ku TEL: 03-5251-2201  
JR: Yurakucho Station Subway: Hibiya Station (Hibiya / Chiyoda line)