



ICRC

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BULLETIN

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



Distributing household items in Western Darfur

Boosting Aid Efforts

Welcome to the Nairobi Bulletin's first edition of 2005. In this edition we focus on the considerable amount of support the Regional Delegation of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in Nairobi has provided the ICRC's response as a whole during two of the world's largest and most recent humanitarian emergencies - the tsunami in South-East Asia and the Darfur crisis in Sudan.

This support came in the form of both aid and personnel.

The day after the tsunami, our Logistics Centre on the Mombasa Road, Nairobi, began to prepare what would become one of the first humanitarian flights to reach Sri Lanka with emergency aid for tsunami victims.

Since early 2004, the Logistics Centre has also been sending aid to Sudan for distribution in Darfur. At least 20 national and expatriate staff based in Nairobi have travelled to Sudan on missions to support the ICRC's huge Darfur operation, including IT technicians, drivers and senior logisticians, as well as individuals from Nairobi's tracing, training, armed forces and information departments.

This Bulletin also takes a look at the Mines Summit in Nairobi.

In the 1990s, the ICRC was the first humanitarian organisation to campaign

for a ban on the use of mines. The ICRC's President, Jakob Kellenberger, attended the Nairobi Summit in December 2004, drawing attention to landmine survivors.

While he was in Nairobi, Dr Kellenberger took part in a Nobel Laureates' panel where he talked about violations of International Humanitarian Law, or IHL, in this region, making it clear he intended to watch for concrete steps towards improvement.

Conflicts in the region remind us all that IHL and the Geneva Conventions are as relevant today as they were in the past - a set of international rules to which ICRC field staff and others can refer as they do their best to protect civilians and combatants in wartime.

Outside of these conflict zones, the ICRC continues to raise awareness of the fact that rules in war exist, running courses and contests organised by the Nairobi Delegation for humanitarian workers, journalists, University lecturers and students.

Nairobi's Regional Delegation has often neighboured conflicts, but the start of 2005 brought with it the promise that one conflict at least - the long war in Southern Sudan - might be drawing to a close. The Regional Delegation expects to be saying its goodbyes to the Sudan Office, which it has hosted for many years,

when it moves back into Southern Sudan.

There will also be changes in North-Western Kenya which until January 2005's Sudan Peace Accord acted as a staging post for aid operations in rebel-held areas of Southern Sudan. In recent years, the ICRC's Sudan Sub-Delegation in the Kenyan town of Lokichokio has tried to help not just Sudanese war victims but the local Turkana population as well.

For ICRC's Somali Delegation, the year began with a newly-elected government for Somalia contemplating moves back to the Somali capital of Mogadishu too after a 14 year absence.

In 2005, pastoralist conflict and sporadic tension in the mainly Muslim inhabited coast of East Africa, will be a growing focus for the Regional Delegation.

Pascal Cuttat
Head of Regional Delegation

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Nairobi Aid for the Tsunami

Just 29 hours after the tsunami struck the shores of Sri Lanka, the International Committee of the Red Cross landed an Antonov full of new emergency supplies in the Sri Lankan capital of Colombo.

The new supplies came from Nairobi. "We were among the first organisation to get an aircraft into Colombo after the tsunami," says Giuseppe Coniglione, who is in charge of procurement at ICRC Nairobi's Logistics centre. "When the technicians arrived from Geneva, the material was already there."

Coniglione did not take part in the tsunami effort himself because he was on leave for the Christmas period. But ICRC's headquarters in Geneva called other members of the Logistics team in Nairobi, who were at home on the evening of Boxing Day, 26 December, as news of the tsunami's devastating impact became known.

John Wert, the ICRC's Head of Logistics in Nairobi, organised a team of one person from each department at Logistics. The team swung into action on 27 December.

Daily workers loaded blankets, tarpaulins, buckets and jerrycans onto trucks at the ICRC's Mombasa road warehousing complex.

"We didn't sleep much," says Jean-Claude Chesaux, Deputy Head of Logistics, who too was involved in organising the tsunami airlifts. "We finished loading the trucks by midnight on the 27th. The plane arrived on the 28th from Dubai, an Antonov 124. We started to load at about 10am and were through by 8pm. Then at about 11pm, it flew to Colombo."

ICRC Nairobi managed to get one more flight into Colombo with another 45 tonnes of supplies, before Sri Lanka's Civil Aviation Authority - overwhelmed by the number of humanitarian flights arriving in response to the tsunami disaster - closed its airspace.



Blankets, tarpaulins and water equipment arrive in Colombo



Sorting out relief for distribution in Trincomalee, Sri Lanka

As a result, the rest of the ICRC's aid flights from Nairobi went to Singapore, carrying aid for Banda Aceh in Indonesia.

The International Committee of the Red Cross does not normally provide emergency aid to people affected by natural disasters, as opposed to man-made ones like conflict. On the whole, this is the type of work the International Federation of the Red Cross does.

But in this case, the ICRC was already working in the two areas worst hit by the tsunami. Banda Aceh in northern Indonesia has been affected by several years of internal conflict, while conflict in Tamil areas of northern Sri Lanka has been going on for much longer.

The numbers of deaths the tsunami caused far exceeded those of wars -

some 230,000 people are estimated to have been killed by the extraordinarily powerful tidal wave in Indonesia, and more than 30,000 in Sri Lanka.

ICRC NAIROBI LOGISTICS CENTRE

- Spent US\$1.4 million a month on purchases in 2004
- Transported 30,000 tonnes of goods in 2004
- 175 contract employees and eight expatriates work there
- Hires 40 casual labourers a day on average
- Has 31 trucks in use plus 17 in reserve
- Has 8,800 square metres of warehouse space in Nairobi and Mombasa

Soya oil for Darfur

In the last few months of 2004, the ICRC's large Logistics base in Nairobi, handled the purchase and transportation of more than 1,500 tonnes of relief supplies for the troubled Darfur region of Western Sudan. Among the items it sent was cooking oil bought from Kenyan companies under a quality control procedure described below. Catherine Bond reports.

Milton Isweka inspects edible oil destined for hundreds of thousands of people the ICRC is giving emergency food to in Darfur.

He jumps on top of a plastic jerrycan to test it, making sure the seal does not burst open and spill its precious contents.

The seal remains intact - a sign that this brand of vegetable oil would survive a journey covering thousands of bumpy kilometres, all the way from a factory in Kenya to remote Western Sudan.

Isweka works for Bureau Veritas, one of the quality control companies the ICRC hires in Nairobi to inspect some of the relief goods it buys.

The Logistics Centre in Nairobi has standard specifications for various relief supplies. Suppliers check they can meet these specifications before entering into a contract with the ICRC.

North of Nairobi, in the flat, industrial town of Thika, Isweka surveys row upon row of yellow jerrycans, stacked from floor to ceiling in cardboard cartons inside a vast, factory warehouse.

The jerrycans contain soya oil the ICRC wants to buy for Darfur.

Isweka selects cartons at random,

checks the batch numbers and weighs some of them, both with and without oil inside them. He takes a look at the packaging. The cartons have to be stronger than normal in order to endure the long journey to Sudan - five layers of cardboard stuck together, instead of the usual three used by most supermarkets.

He puts aside a few cartons of oil to send to a laboratory where it will be examined - obviously, it has to meet ICRC specifications of good quality, fit for human consumption.

"The specifications the ICRC uses are higher than those used for the cooking oils you or I would buy in the supermarket," says R.D Mokashi of Bidco, the Kenyan company upon whose premises Isweka was carrying out his inspection. In the last quarter of 2004, the ICRC bought more than US\$700,000 worth of soya oil from Bidco to send to Darfur.

As an added thought, Isweka imagines himself in the place of a displaced woman and, with her in mind, picks up a jerrycan full of oil to see if its handle is wide enough to be comfortable to hold.

Most of the world's cooking oil is made out of palm oil, which is cheaper than

soya. But soya oil is more nutritious, particularly when enriched with Vitamin A, as the oil destined for Darfur is.

"Soya is much higher in protein, so for the relief areas, soya is a better choice," says Bidco's Kevill Shah.



Milton Isweka checks soya oil



Loading trucks for Darfur at Nairobi's Jomo Kenyatta airport

Call for More Help

In late November 2004, Kenya hosted the Nairobi Summit for a Mine Free World, held to review progress in the 1999 Ottawa Treaty banning the use of mines. Information Officer Jessica Musila reports.



Simon Lobi, a Sudanese mine victim, at Lopiding hospital

If small states can eliminate their use of landmines, there is no justification for the mighty and powerful - with their sophisticated weapon systems - to retain and use mines," Kenya's President, Mwai Kibaki, told the Nairobi Summit.

The Nairobi Mines Summit marked the five-year review of the Ottawa Treaty - an international convention that sets out to rid the world of anti-personnel mines.

In 1994, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) began to campaign for a global ban on anti-personnel mines. Then in 1997, the ICRC collaborated with the International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL) to increase international pressure.

The Ottawa Treaty came into force two years later, and since then, 144 states have signed it, Ethiopia being the latest, ratifying the Treaty on the Opening Day of the Nairobi Summit.

Over 1,300 delegates gathered at the Summit to assess the progress of the Treaty so far. Most delegates came from states that have signed the Ottawa Treaty, as well as from observer states, international organisations, UN agencies and non-governmental organisations.

Kenya destroyed its last stockpiles of anti-personnel mines in 2003, leaving some 3,000 for training purposes only. The ICRC is helping to advise the Kenyan government on how to incorporate the Ottawa Treaty into national law.

In early 2004, Djibouti also met mine clearance obligations laid down by the Treaty.

The Summit's President-Designate, Ambassador Wolfgang Petritsch of Austria, said there had been great advances towards ending the suffering caused by anti-personnel mines.

"Production of anti-personnel mines has decreased dramatically, trade in this weapon has virtually ceased, and their deployment is now rare," he said.

"The number of new victims has fallen dramatically, and more survivors are receiving support. In addition, signatory countries have destroyed more than 37 million stockpiled mines, and four million mines have been cleared from affected regions."

Africa remains the most heavily mined continent in the world, with large numbers of mines lying as yet undetected or uncleared in countries like Sudan.

o for Mines Victims

Despite this, most sub-Saharan African countries have signed the Ottawa Treaty. The exception is Somalia, though the new Somali government - formed late in 2004 - has pledged to sign the treaty before end of 2005.

The ICRC's President, Dr. Jakob Kellenberger, attended the Nairobi Summit. Dr Kellenberger said more needed to be done to help mine victims. Most, he said, had yet to see a significant improvement in their lives, though the ICRC was working to redress this.

"Since the Convention's adoption, the ICRC has seen supplementary resources made available for victim assistance," Dr. Kellenberger told the Summit.

The ICRC has created 42 more rehabilitation centres in 12 more countries in the past six years, providing more than 105,000 prostheses to amputees - 60 percent of them mine victims.

Activists at the Summit expressed concern that donor funding for mine clearance and victims was falling, and that large stockpiles of landmines remain in countries not part to the Treaty.

"Enough is not being done to rid the world of mines and rehabilitate their victims," the ICBL's Youth Ambassador from Cambodia, Song Kosal, told the Opening Ceremony.

The Head of the ICRC's Mines-Arms Unit, Peter Herby, warned - "if the trend of diminished financial support continued, the situation of landmine survivors is bound to further deteriorate."

"Since the Convention's adoption, the ICRC has seen supplementary resources made available for victim assistance,"
Dr. Jakob Kellenberger

A group of senior military officers presented findings based on a study commissioned by the ICRC regarding the effectiveness of anti-personnel mines. The study concluded anti-personnel mines were obsolete on the modern battlefield, their use unjustifiable under any circumstance.

The Nairobi Summit adopted an action plan of 70 commitments to speed-up the destruction of mine stockpiles, clear more mined land, and grant long-term aid to mine survivors.

According to the Landmine Monitor 2004 report, more than 80 percent of some 15,000 to 20,000 landmine victims each year are civilians - at least one in five, a child.



Members of the Regional Delegation race for a mine-free world

ICRC / Gilbert Otieno



Recent mine victims wait for orthopaedic fittings at Lopiding

ICRC / Jessica Musil

Moot Court

The 4th International Moot Court Competition on International Humanitarian Law (IHL) was held in Arusha, Tanzania from 6 -11 December, 2004. Communications Officer, Anne Kilimo, reports.

Twelve teams of three students each from seven countries in Africa took part, two Universities for the first time - the National University of Rwanda and Uganda's Christian University. Old timers like Uganda's Makerere University did not take part this time around.

Teams were sent by universities in Ethiopia, Kenya, Nigeria, Rwanda, South Africa, Tanzania and Uganda, including five teams from Kenya and two from South Africa.

The Moot Court competition comprises sessions on IHL, followed by scenarios in which teams act out roles, culminating in presenting of a supposed legal case in a courtroom.

This year, the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR) provided a great deal of support, including lecturers for some sessions and a courtroom for the finals.

Three ICTR judges were for the first time on the jury panel for the final - the President of the Tribunal, Judge Eric Møse, as well as Judges Flavia Lattanzi and Solomy Bossa. Other ICTR members attended it too, including Lovemore Munlo, Deputy Registrar and Moustapha Hassouna, Head of Protocol.

The Head of the ICRC Nairobi Regional Delegation, Pascal Cuttat, Fabrizio Carboni from Geneva and Len Blazeby, Regional Legal Adviser, also served as judges.

This year, teams from non-legal faculties showed a marked improvement. A coach from one of these teams had attended the All Africa Course on IHL in Pretoria in October and this she said, had helped her to prepare her team for the Moot Court.

The team from Kenya's United States International University, USIU, was the winner, with the University of Addis Ababa runners-up. Although USIU teaches IHL in a non-legal faculty, the students were able to perform better than those actually studying law.

The ICRC's Moot Court competition was initially started in late 2000 for Kenyan university students, but has since grown to include other countries in and outside East Africa.

Lecturers Roundtable

In October 2004, the ICRC Regional Delegation in Nairobi organised a roundtable discussion for senior university lecturers teaching International Humanitarian Law (IHL) in East Africa. The event attracted 22 lecturers from nine universities, provided an update on developments in IHL and explored strengthening co-operation between universities and the ICRC.



The 2004 Moot Court Winners from USIU and Addis Ababa universities

IHL for Zanzibar

In early November, 40 journalists from the Zanzibari media, as well as a few political party representatives, attended a briefing on the ICRC and its work on the Tanzanian mainland and Zanzibari islands of Unguja and Pemba. The ICRC's Head of Mission for Tanzania and Head of Regional Delegation talked about IHL and ICRC intervention in times of crisis. The briefing was organised a few weeks ahead of voter registration.

Popular Humanitarian Course

The ICRC held two International Humanitarian Law (IHL) courses in Arusha, Tanzania in June and September, for humanitarian workers and policymakers. Forty-one people from United Nations agencies, international Non-Governmental Organisations, government agencies and national Red Cross societies attended this course. The course is popular with humanitarian organisations.

Projects in Turkwell Gorge

Access to water and pasture is often a cause of tension along the border of West Pokot and Turkana districts. The ICRC has recently started some projects there. Jessica Musila reports.

In 2004, the ICRC Regional Delegation in Nairobi started water and habitat projects in the Turkwell Gorge area along the district border of West Pokot and Turkana. The projects should benefit some 1000 households - about 5,000 people - living in Kainuk and Katilu in Turkana, and Sigor and Kasei in West Pokot.

Under the scheme, new classrooms will also be built in two schools.

"The groundwork in Kainuk and Ritten primary schools in both Turkana and West Pokot has already begun," says André Mermillod, the Kenya Field Delegate overseeing the work. "ICRC neutrality has to be evident in our work, so the projects have to be duplicated on each side."

Local communities provide labour for the projects.

A livestock project is part of the scheme as well. The local communities are pastoralists and cattle play an essential role in their lives.

Under the livestock scheme, the ICRC has contracted a Kenyan veterinary officer to train twelve Community Animal Health Workers (CAHWs). The ICRC distributes animal drugs through the vet to the CAHWs, who in turn treat the animals.



Local people preparing building materials for Kainuk school

This helps support the role and livelihood of local vets.

Households are given an ICRC voucher worth Kshs.1000 to pay for drugs and for animal care. The ICRC hopes that eventually the local communities themselves will pay the animal health workers.

About 250 households from both the Pokot and Turkana communities are already benefiting from this programme. The project has supported close to 60,000 animals.

The ICRC is supporting some farming too.

In October 2004, the Economic Security department started demonstration plots in Orwa village, West Pokot, to teach some villagers basic farming methods. This project relied on the short rains and on river water to irrigate land.

Onions, tomatoes, green grams, maize, sorghum and cow peas were planted.

Some 250 more households had recently resettled in Orwa, after a cattle-raid displaced them from where they used to live. "They had lost most of their livestock in the raid and had no means of livelihood," says Leticia Wanyonyi, the EcoSec field officer overseeing the project.

Villagers were also supplied with tools to help prepare the land for the long rains. The Economic Security Unit will supply them with sorghum and maize seeds. A similar project is planned for Loyapat, Turkana.

Rehabilitation and building of new wells is expected to start in West Pokot and South Turkana in 2005. The projects are expected to last about three years.



The new Lopiding water storage tank

New Water for Locals in Lokichokkio

Early in December, the Lokichokkio Sub-Delegation handed over a solar cum wind-powered water pump to Lopiding village, next door to the ICRC hospital. Local and religious leaders, administrators, teachers, parents and children, attended the ceremony.

"The pump installed at the water point has boosted the amount of water available," says Rob Drouen, Head of the Sub-Delegation. "Previously, women and children spent many hours at this water point since the water had to be taken out via a hand pump."

The new, submersible pump runs on either a solar panel or a windmill, drawing enough water

to fill an 8,000 litre tank connected to a pipe with six taps. The system is the first of its kind in Kenya, self-selecting which energy source to use.

The Lokichokkio Sub-Delegation is carrying out other projects to support the local Turkana population, including building new classrooms in two local schools. Local communities provide labour and local materials.

Recently, the Sub-Delegation also donated a Landcruiser to a health clinic run by the African Inland Church. The Landcruiser will be used as a mobile clinic or ambulance.

The ICRC has been based in Lokichokkio since 1986, mainly assisting victims of the civil war in southern Sudan. In recent years, it has also carried out projects for the local community.

Re-establishing family links

In 2004, the ICRC registered over 1,100 children under the age of 16 from southern Sudan who were living in Kakuma refugee camp.

The aim was to allow the ICRC and Sudanese Red Crescent trace their families in southern Sudan and get in touch through the Red Cross Message network. A similar exercise was carried out in refugee camps in Ethiopia at the same time.

"Most of the minors were separated from their parents or guardians as they escaped from the war," explains Antonia Spanaki, the ICRC's Regional Tracing Delegate. "Officers from the Tracing Unit recorded each child's name and age, parents' names, plus previous and present addresses, and also took photos."

The children wrote Red Cross Messages (RCMs) to their relatives in the hope of receiving news of them.

"Close to 250 children were able to re-establish communication with their relatives in previously inaccessible parts of southern Sudan and other countries through the Red Cross message network," says Antonia.



Sudanese teenager in Kakuma camp reads a Red Cross Message

The ICRC provides family tracing services for refugees in Kakuma and Dadaab camps in co-operation with the Kenya Red Cross.

More than 400 refugees of different nationalities visited the ICRC's Nairobi office with requests for travel, tracing or detention documents. Some also sought information on family reunion procedures and wrote RCMs to their families.

In 2004, the ICRC also offered tracing

services to refugees living in camps in western Tanzania.

As a result, seventy-six of the unaccompanied children registered in the Tanzanian camps were reunited with their relatives, the majority of them Burundian, with a few Congolese or Rwandan.

Over 44,450 Red Cross Messages were collected from and 30,164 distributed to refugees in Tanzania.



Regional Head of Delegation Pascal Cuttat hands over part of a water pump in Lamu

Pumps for Lamu

On December 3, the ICRC donated five water pumps in Lamu to boost water supplies to town residents. The acting District Commissioner, the Chairman of the Lamu branch of the Kenya Red Cross, representatives of the Muslim community and the ICRC's Head of the Regional Delegation, Pascal Cuttat, were present at the handing over ceremony. Along with the Kenya Red Cross, the ICRC is also rehabilitating two rainwater harvesting tanks, or djabias, in the area, and supplying water to a dispensary and a school.



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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



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