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BULLETIN

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



Turkana dancers at this year's World Red Cross/Red Crescent Day celebrations

High-tech water solution

Pristine, white, sandy beaches shaded by palm trees, bathing in tropical sunshine. The warm sea is teaming with lobster. Sounds like a recipe for heaven on earth. Or does it?

Not necessarily if you ask the people of Kizingitini, a borough of around 4000 people on one of the islands in the Lamu archipelago. Amidst what a casual visitor might consider to be idyllic scenery, they lead a harsh life. Suffering, as a primary hardship, from a lack of clean drinking water.

There is an old system of managing water in the Lamu archipelago. What water falls during the rainy season on roofs and on the traditional rainwater catchment installations called *djabias*, is collected and carefully preserved as drinking water. The rains, however, are not enough to cover consumption year round. In the old days, maritime trade allowed for the purchase of drinking water from local sailing boats also known as *dhow*s. Since the *dhow*s have lost their importance as means of long distance transport, there is no more water to be

bought from their captains. And with no sweet water sources available on the islands, the population relies, as soon as the *djabias* have dried up, on shallow and salty wells, expensive imports and, in very rough times, emergency water imports by the Kenyan Armed Forces to get by.

Over the last two years, the ICRC has been working on a solution to this problem. On one hand, publicly managed *djabias* were repaired and rendered more efficient. On the other hand, in a step deviating from the traditional view that in low-tech environments only low-tech solutions could be sustainable, the ICRC has installed a plant that uses nothing but sea water and renewable energy (wind and sun) to produce drinking water through reverse osmosis (see relevant article on page 6).

While the initial input has been important in terms of both resources and know-how, we are confident that the plant is, even in the remote village of Kizingitini, sustainable in the long run, producing clean drinking water at a comparatively

low cost. We expect a positive impact on both the health of the population and the economies of the households of Kizingitini.

Beyond the direct impact on the needs of the inhabitants of Kizingitini, the experience we have made in the Lamu archipelago has added one more option to our palette of interventions in challenging environments.

Pascal Cuttat
Head of Regional Delegation

Red Cross/ Red Crescent Day 2	
Armed Forces	3
Family Reunions	4 & 5
Water project Lamu	6
IHL competitions inspire students	7
ICRC news	8

Warring communities realize harmony through song and dance



Dancers from West Pokot performing at the ICRC offices in Nairobi

A Russian ballet show on television elicits terse laughter and bewilderment from Roselyn Chepukugho's face and those of her friends. "These things are not good to watch," she says frowning, "they are the work of the devil".

Roselyn is watching television perhaps for the first time in her life as she eats her lunch at the ICRC Regional Delegation in Nairobi. Together with nine of her village mates from Ritten in West Pokot, and ten

attacks occurring between them. The dancers however, are quick to point out that there is no bad blood between the two groups.

"We travelled together for four hours from Ritten to Kitale and another night's journey to Nairobi. This place is really far and in all that time, there was no fighting, just peaceful co-existence," Roselyn adds to drive her point home.

In their time in Nairobi, a first for all of them, they got to visit the Uhuru Park and Gikomba market, a second-hand clothes market on the outskirts of Nairobi, which they found too over-crowded.

Amos and David, two young Turkana morans had been laying on the grass outside staring into the blue sky, almost in reflex as if they were on the grazing fields back home. Both swear that they have never been involved in a cattle raid, the most common cause of infighting between the communities. A mention of the protracted violence between the communities makes them hastily turn their faces, as if in fear of say-

ing something provocative.

"Those fighting are idlers in the village, rowdy youths who should find jobs and something to do so they can stop stealing our cattle," Roselyn quickly interjects.

"The Turkana and Pokot living close to the borders do not fight anymore. It is those who come from the bush, the idling lads with nothing to do and no wealth of their own," volunteers Amos.

Their views differ greatly from reports that depict organised raiders running

"Our people are very excited after the Red Cross (ICRC) built schools for us," says Roselyn.

amok in the villages looking for cattle, a highly prized commodity among the pastoralist communities. Yet they all agree that things have changed in the last few years. Security has improved, thanks to general awareness and various peace efforts from both the government and private sources. They cite the ICRC as a key player as well as the Tegla Loroupe annual peace race as two main contributors to building the communities and encouraging harmony.

For now, those living at the Turkana-Pokot border are working to build a peaceful coexistence as they put their warring days behind them and concentrate on bringing up their children.



Roselyn Chepukugho

At the delegation, two traditional huts, one Turkana and one Pokot built by the women from both communities served as a reminder of their visit. They worked together, joining reed by reed, plastering the walls while singing to their hearts content. In some regions, it is anathema to mention the two communities in the same sentence, unless one is referring to the frequent

(Continued from Pg 2) Roselyn dropped out of school in class 4 at the age of 17 because her father wanted her to get married. She says that it is only those with archaic thoughts who would deny their children the luxury of school today. She intends to allow her daughter to get the highest level of education she aspires to.

"Today, our children can have a brighter future out of the education they are getting. We no longer have to marry the girls off young or send our boys out to the grazing fields the whole day. Our people are very excited after the Red Cross (ICRC) built schools for us," says Roselyn.

Since the schools were inaugurated in February in Lorongon, Turkana and Orwa, West Pokot, the requests for enrolment have been overwhelming. Currently, Orwa primary school holds approximately 290

students in four classrooms with the nursery school children having to learn out in the open to pave way for the older ones. Lorongon primary school has registered 230 students, up from 167 at the end of last year.

This year's theme for the 8th of May was 'Together for Humanity', underscoring the importance and power of partnerships and the need for stronger local and global alliances in order to meet the growing humanitarian challenges.

The chief guest at the celebrations was Tegla Loroupe, renowned Kenyan marathon winner and founder of the Tegla Loroupe Peace Foundation. Other athletes such as Emily Kimuria, Martin Keino and Joseph Chelanga graced the colourful event along with invited guests.

In his address at the celebrations, ICRC

head of Delegation Pascal Cuttat highlighted the organisation's role in the annual peace race and the invaluable partnerships created with the Kenya Red Cross in many of its relief efforts in Kenya.

"The ICRC is not in the business of peace building...but bringing the communities together at the very least in sharing humanitarian values, allows people to understand each other better - to see the other tribe as being more like themselves and thereby cause less harm during raids," he stated.

The dancers clearly demonstrated they share humanitarian values and proved that with effort, even members of seemingly warring parties can peacefully coexist if they make an effort.

Defence Forces instructors enhance their knowledge about the "Rules of War"

By Rita Nyagah

Thirty participants ranking from Captains to Colonels attended a two-week Law of Armed Conflict (LoAC) course at the Peace Keeping Training Centre in Dar es Salaam from 14-25 May. The training was organised by ICRC's Regional Delegation Armed Forces department for the Tanzania People's Defence Forces (TPDF) instructors.

ICRC Armed Forces delegate Anton Widmer said the aim of the course was to equip the instructors with materials and information on LoAC, also known as International Humanitarian Law, so that they may teach and disseminate the same within their forces.

Participants covered many topics on International Humanitarian Law (IHL) in the first week with the first lecture given by Dr. Karna Soro, Head of Mission in Tanzania. The second week was more practical - working in syndicate groups and presenting the results of their work. They also had a full day allocated to field exercises.

Colonel James Aloyce Mwakibolwa, the Commandant of TPDF recruits' training school and participant of the course, emphasized the importance of officers and commandants knowing IHL. "Many recruits are not aware that there are rules on fighting. They would for example not harm a woman or child, but this is purely from a customary point of view," he informed.

Col. Mwakibolwa further expressed gratitude for the material and knowledge given on IHL and said he would ensure

that his officers approached fighting from an IHL point of view in future.

Further, he commented that the training was practical as it makes use of all five senses. "Seeing the video clips helps you cement what you have learnt, while listening to the presentations and asking questions helps one clarify the subject matter. The field exercises gave us an actual feel of the battlefield and we were able to enhance training by use of four simulated stations namely, an attack station, a defence station and two checkpoint stations," he elaborated.

TPDF Director of Training, Col. Charles M Jitenga appreciated ICRC's support in building the capacity of the instructors, and said that this training for instructors would be included into the TPDF annual training calendar. Tanzania currently has two military schools training in IHL. He further stressed the need to overcome training challenges within the military especially with regard to women. Statistically, 24% of the TPDF comprises women working in the Information Technology (IT) and logistics departments. There were however, no female participants in the training as three of those slated to attend the course dropped out at the



ICRC Armed Forces delegate Anton Widmer (right) with some of the TPDF instructors

last minute due to circumstances beyond their control.

Col. Aloyce Laier, an Assistant Judge Advocate General and head of the TPDF Dept. of Military Justice and one of the facilitators noted, 'The participants admit that the course is valuable to them in their respective capacities although they wish that more time would be allocated to each module'.

At the end, one of the participants stated, 'I am now a changed commander. I will teach what I learnt to others and encourage them to put it to practice'.

DRC: Children join their families after years of agonizing separation

As of May 2007, there were over 118,000 Congolese refugees living in 3 of 11 camps in Tanzania's western corridor. Many of them are now returning home through voluntary repatriation assisted by the ICRC and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). The ICRC's Anne Mucheke tells the story of two of the four children she accompanied on the long journey back to their families in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC).

Shortly after sunset in mid-February, my colleagues arrived at the ICRC Kigoma office in western Tanzania with four exhausted children. I was to go with the children to the DRC to witness the reunions with their families. All four have been living in Kigoma's Lugufu refugee camps having fled armed conflict in their country.

The children – Asende Kubwa, Kiiza Rusia, Nondo and Eliza Lawi were very excited about returning home and admitted they could barely wait another day. However, it was getting dark and we had to get some food and a good night's rest before our journey the following evening.

Before our departure, we spent part of the next day at the ICRC office. The chil-



Kiiza Rusia is reunited with her family

dren had undergone an amazing transformation, having donned the new outfits bought by the ICRC. They were getting restless so we left for the beach for a soda and to help pass the time more quickly.

In between, I listened to their stories about their past and living in the camps. Eliza boasted of her knitting skills, and how she would make sweaters and sell them at the camp for a few shillings.

One of the boys told of his escapades with a Congolese trader who offered to help him find his parents, transferring him from one camp to another only to force him into herding his large flock of sheep. He appears resigned, detailing his escape from the man when no help seemed forthcoming after many months. The children's courage in the face of adversity is amazing.

In the evening, we boarded the boat MV Mwongozo belonging to the UNHCR along with 500 Congolese nationals returning home. Due to the large numbers, ventilation in the lower deck was poor and space scarce. Most of the men opted to

walk around in the upper deck, enjoying the cool lake breeze and its calm waters. Some women powdered their noses and put on lipstick as they tidied their tightly braided hair. With the little they had, they still wanted to look their best for their arrival home.

Eliza kept getting delirious from the malarial fever she had caught in the camp so we sought the ship's doctor and afterward, I took her to rest in one of the cabins upstairs while I kept watch over the children below. They drifted between sleep and peering out the windows looking for land, too restless to sit still.

When we arrived at the Congolese port of Baraka the next morning, our ICRC colleagues from the South Kivu delegation were on hand to receive us. We then drove to the UNHCR Baraka transit centre where the children received their repatriation packages consisting of seeds, a water jerry can, farm tools, medication and food for three months. Anxiety was written all over their faces but exhaustion soon took over as they waited in line for their packages. Soon we were on our way to Fizi village in South Kivu to witness the first reunification of the day.

12-year-old Asende Kubwa returned home after eight interminable years of separation from his family. His grandfather Kingombe Nwaca admitted to having witnessed a miracle for the second time in two years.

Seeing the land cruisers with the ICRC



The MV mwongozo leaves the port of Kigoma with the children on board

logo in front of his home, Nwaca knew he had been handed a lifeline, again. "This was the second time that the ICRC has helped to find and bring home one of my children," he told us excitedly. Only last year the family celebrated when his granddaughter was reunited with the family.

Asende's eldest sister Rose received her brother with hugs and cheers as the rest of the village burst into songs and jubilation. Although Asende could barely remember the faces and names that called out to him so fondly, he put on a brave face as his sister teased him about forgetting his family 'so soon'. He took in his surroundings, perhaps trying to recall the last time he was home.

"Asende and one of elder sisters were separated from the family in 1999 when fighting broke out in our village and everyone was forced to run for their lives," his grandfather told me. He learned afterwards that his granddaughter had remarried but there was no news on Asende. In 2006, a Red Cross volunteer brought a message from Kigoma stating his grandson was well and wanted to come back home. "It was then that I learnt that Asende had been living with a neighbour in the camps, and I asked the ICRC to assist me in getting him back home," he added.

Our first task complete, we left Fizi for Uvira to facilitate 10-year old Kiiza's reunification. Past the undulating landscape hills, valleys and lush greenery that is Fizi, Uvira stands at a stark contrast with its picturesque lakeshore and coast-like climate, thanks to the expansive Lake Tanganyika. This lake was an escape route for many people fleeing armed conflict in DRC and Burundi, and it is the same route that they used to go back home.

It is difficult to imagine how people fled their homes in the dead of the night with children in tow during the conflict. However, as Patience Masirika, senior ICRC staff officer in the South Kivu office explains, families walked as many as 400 kilometres in search of safety at the height of the conflict.

Kiiza's home is right next to the road. Her father Mto Ebengo Portace and grandmother smothered her with hugs and kisses, while the rest of the family sang

excitedly. She stood bewildered at all the attention, yet managed a smile and was soon chatting with excited relatives. They spoke to her in the local language, asking a chorus of questions in unison.

Mr Ebengo was elated to see his daughter. In 2003, their village was attacked and the entire family displaced along with 100,000 other people. In the process, Kiiza separated from the family and followed a group that went to Burundi. A Congolese neighbour who travelled from Kigoma to Burundi on business spotted her and took her to the Lugufu camp from where they sought the services of the ICRC. In 2006, Mr



Ebengo received a Red Cross message from his daughter stating that she would like to go back home.

"From now on, I am going to be an evangelist telling people about the ICRC tracing services that can help them find their loved ones," the beaming father says.

Unfortunately, I could not witness all the reunifications, as I had to return to my duty station. Eliza and Lawi were left under the care of the ICRC South Kivu officers and later reunited with their family in Kalemie, a journey that took two days.

The war is over, the scars will heal and the children will surely adjust to their new lives. Nonetheless, these stories serve to remind us of the terrible price that families pay because of war.

As part of the activities to mark this year's World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day, ICRC Kigoma organised a series of activities in all the refugee camps in the Northwestern corridor of Tanzania. Among the activities planned was a drawing competition for the children, which was received with a lot of enthusiasm. The drawings below were submitted by children in Lugufu 1 camp and were judged as the top three winning entries. They are clear indicators that the children understand the importance of family reunification programmes facilitated by the ICRC.



A paradise in the Indian Ocean without drinking water: ICRC helps to end the struggle

by Anne Muecheke

Residents of Kizingitini Island, situated north of Lamu at the Kenyan coast, are often resigned to the reality that there is water everywhere, but not a drop to drink. Although surrounded by the Indian Ocean, residents struggle to find drinking water as that which is available has high saline concentrations.

They rely on the rains to get drinking water, which fall between October-December for the short rains and March-May for the long rains. Rainwater is collected and stored in underground concrete wells, so called *djabias*, then sold in the dry months. However, weather patterns have been unreliable leaving the residents without drinking water for many parts of the year.

Nyasumani Athmani, a mother of four, speaks of the difficulties trying to access water in her village. "When the water is used up in all the *djabias*, we have to fetch water from Majumbwali, the nearest village, a journey that takes two hours by foot," she says.

Due to the weight, one can only manage a 20-litre water container- or jerry can- per trip. "Often, it is too hot and we are too tired to do anything else so we sleep when we get home," she adds. One jerry can is hardly enough to meet the needs of her five family members but she has no other option.

"If you want to clean your clothes, you have to make more trips or carry the clothes there, wash them and come back with them while carrying the drinking water," she says.

Prices of water from the local *djabias* range from 10 to 30kshs per jerry can depending on the season of the year. When the water in Majumbwali also runs out, water merchants sell water sourced from Fizi, the nearest island or from Lamu, a few hours further by local sailing boats (*dhow*s). It is not a guarantee that they will get this water, but they take the chance as the islands are larger and have more *djabias* than those found in Kizingitini. The merchants inflate the prices to between 30-40 kshs per jerry can when they eventually sell it.

Thanks to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), residents of Kizingitini can now access clean drinking

water within their own village and at reasonable cost all year round. The organisation has set up a desalination project with the aim of purifying seawater and turning it into safe drinking water.

The desalination plant has been set up within a compound in the village. Salty water is collected through a PVC pipe from an underground well and pumped via a submersible pump to a 5,000-litre water tank. Water from this tank flows by gravity to the desalination membranes, which convert seawater to clean water, and finally into water tanks connected to taps for residents to draw.

To overcome the lack of electricity in Kizingitini, the ICRC has turned to renewable energy sourced from the wind and sun. A wind tower and solar panels harness energy during the day. This power charges a bank of batteries, which enable the desalination machine to function; a highly modern process carried out in this remote village.

"People are now fetching the water to use on their bodies as well because it gives them smooth skin. They are excited about the project especially now that they will get quality drinking water in the dry season rather than purchase it at very high prices," says Idaruss Said, an official from the Ministry of Health in Kizingitini.

Said's thoughts were echoed by the Imam of the area. "The ICRC has brought life to the residents of Kizingitini. The water has come at the right time when there is scarcity in the village. If more donors stepped in with these kind of projects, we would have enough water for everyone's needs," he said.

Although most of the inhabitants are still using alternative sources of water for washing etc. it is evident they are breathing a sigh of relief because drinking water is at their disposal. Rather than wait for the rains to pour, they can now have clean water all year round thanks to this project.

Residents are also benefiting as they are using the energy stored in the batteries - which run the desalination machine- to charge their mobile telephones. Since the machine started operating in March, more than 2200 mobile phones, have been charged already.

Each user pays 20kshs, which is an additional source of income for the project and is used among other things to pay the guards at the premises. "Sometimes we get up to 50 mobile phones a day in need of our services," says the day guard who also oversees the charging of the phones. Clearly, the project will not only meet

the basic needs of the people but also help them keep in touch with loved ones.

Today, Nyasumani is excited and rather relaxed because drinking water has come closer to them. "It is easier now to go away for errands because my children can easily fetch drinking water themselves as the compound is just a stone's throw from my house," she adds enthusiastically.

The ICRC is also putting up desalination units in Faza and Mtigabala Islands, whose residents face similar problems.



Waiting in line for a chance to fetch clean drinking water in Kizingitini

"A 20-litre jerry can costs 20kshs," says ICRC water engineer Marco Serafino. "The money collected is used to buy new filters for the desalination machine, pay the operators and guards and buy spare parts," he adds.

The project is producing slightly over 4,000 litres of water a day, which should be enough for everyone to drink should they use it solely for this purpose. The residents however are aware that the water is of a higher quality than that purchased from the *djabias* -although sold at the same prices- and some are using it for bathing.

A love for International Humanitarian Law inspires a Kenyan team in Spain



Back row: Edwin Okutah (2nd) and Idriss Irshad (4th).
Front row: Milikah (left) with other participants at the Jean Pictet competition

Milikah Kithinji, a fourth year law student at the University of Nairobi (UON), can't wait to graduate later this year and begin practising International Humanitarian Law (IHL). "I simply fell in love with IHL – It's such a dynamic subject and there's something new to learn every day," says Milikah excitedly.

She attributes her decision to exposure and participation in two IHL competitions- the Jean Pictet Competition recently held in El Escorial Spain and the 6th International competition on IHL in Arusha. Milikah and her teammates Edwin Okutah and Idriss Irshad beat 11 other University teams last December in Arusha to emerge winners. The competition was sponsored by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and has the aim to further develop the students understanding of IHL, the body of law that regulates situations of armed conflict.

Their performance in Arusha opened other doors for them. Len Blazey, the ICRC Communication Co-ordinator in Nairobi who is also in charge of the

programme, encouraged them to give the Jean-Pictet competition a shot. The Jean-Pictet competition, first held in 1989, seeks to enable graduate students improve their knowledge of IHL through role-play and simulations and convey the reality of international law.

"Len was quite useful in guiding our thought lines especially around the technical questions," says Milikah. On sending their answers, the Kenyan students were chosen along with teams from South Africa and Cameroon to represent Africa.

Milikah is grateful for the training provided by the ICRC in Arusha as it prepared them widely for some of the challenges at the Jean-Pictet, more so because they were competing against master's students. "We were expected to have a good knowledge of the law and unlike

Arusha, there was not much time for training so we had to depend on previous knowledge," she says.

In Arusha, the ICRC provided academic material, which teams needed to refer to, but this was not available to the

participants at the Jean-Pictet. Each one had to rely on whatever books they had carried and support from their teammates to make it into the next round.

It was a challenging task and Milikah cites the presence of tutors at the Jean-Pictet as an added advantage as they guided them through the process, offering encouragement and constructive criticism.

For a subject she took up on the side, Milikah is today re-thinking her options and hopes to venture into IHL as a full time profession. She hopes that the ICRC will create further links with institutions that teach the body of law and ensure that there are checks and balances in the way the subject is taught as it is not getting the seriousness it deserves.

Her teammates Edwin and Idriss expressed their gratitude to the ICRC for its support in paying their airfare, transport and part accommodation expenses for their trip to Spain.

In offering this support, the ICRC was fulfilling one of its primary responsibilities of ensuring that knowledge on IHL is made available to all parties, including those working towards the defence of humanity, and not only those involved in conflict.

"I simply fell in love with IHL – It's such a dynamic subject and there's something new to learn every day," says Milikah excitedly.

Pastoralist communities get new classrooms for their students

The ICRC in February inaugurated two schools in Ritten, Turkana and Orwa in West Pokot at a ceremony witnessed by a host of dignitaries and villagers from both communities. Eight classrooms, four in each school built by the ICRC were officially opened and handed over to the community.

The chief guest was education minister Hon. George Saitoti, who thanked parents for sending their children to school and urged others to embrace education in order to uplift their living standards.

Prof. Saitoti additionally praised the ICRC for the work done in the two districts, singling out the high level of expertise used in constructing the schools. He urged the communities to enrol their children in large numbers.

The schools have so far received an overwhelming number of students with Orwa primary school recording 290 students up from 29 previously registered. Lorongon primary school has 230 students, up from 167 at the end of last year. ICRC field officer Alexander Knupp attributed the increase in numbers to families returning to the area and a decline in early marriages for the girls.

With peace having been relatively restored in the community, parents have warmed up to the concept of school as a way forward for their children's future and are embracing it with all they have.

ICRC marks 30th Anniversary of Additional Protocols

On June 8th, the ICRC marked the 30th anniversary of the Protocols I and II additional to the 1949 Geneva Conventions in different ways around the world.

The 1977 additional protocols were drawn up essentially as a response to the increased suffering of civilians in armed conflict due in part to developments in weapons technology. Additional Protocol I deals with international armed conflicts while Protocol II covers non-international armed conflicts.

They introduced essential rules relating to the conduct of hostilities and the methods and means of warfare, the aim of which



Students in Kainuk, Turkana rejoice with books and toys donated by ICRC staff members

was to strengthen protection for civilians.

In a press statement, Philip Spoerri, ICRC's director for International Law said, "The additional protocols provide a crucial legal framework for the protection of civilians in armed conflict. In this respect, they remain as relevant in conflicts today as when they were adopted 30 years ago."

Their real value, notes Spoerri, lies less in the good they have achieved than in the yet greater evil they have helped to prevent.

Presently, 167 States are party to Additional Protocol I and 163 States party to Additional Protocol II. "Despite this, enforcement at both national and international levels is still a drop in the ocean as the political will to implement them remains insufficient," says Spoerri.

In Pretoria representatives from 16 African countries including Kenya and Tanzania attended an IHL conference on implementation, which marked the day of adoption, 8th June, with presentations on the history and main developments brought about by the protocols.

Moi University and USIU students win competition on International Humanitarian Law

Thirty motivated students from four Kenyan universities participated in the National Competition on International Humanitarian Law (IHL) on 13 March in Nairobi. Teams from Moi University, Eldoret and the United States International University - Africa (USIU), Nairobi emerged winners of the event representing the Faculties of Law and International

Relations respectively. The University of Nairobi (Schools of Law and Journalism) and Egerton University (Sociology) also fielded teams.

The competition organised by the ICRC aims to further develop the students' understanding of IHL, the body of law that regulates situations of armed conflict. This is the first competition on IHL this year with another one scheduled for September whose winners will go on to represent Kenya at the 7th International Competition on IHL to be held in Arusha, Tanzania.

"These competitions are a great opportunity for students to actively use their knowledge of IHL as well as enable students to meet from different universities. It was an exciting day for both the participants and the ICRC alike," said Len Blazeby, the ICRC Communication Coordinator who oversees the programme.

The teams debated the question of whether the rules of IHL in armed conflict adequately restrict the weapons used and tactics adopted by combatants in a conflict. Members of the winning team from Moi stated that the question they were addressing was challenging, and all the teams had put up a spirited performance, so their win was not automatic.

"Our winning strategy was mainly based on teamwork, and we were well prepared for the event. IHL is also an area we are passionate about hence we were able to answer the questions put before us by the jury," said Okalle Makanda, a member of the winning team from Moi.



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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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