



BULLETIN

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NAIROBI REGIONAL DELEGATION

LONG-TERM ENGAGEMENT AND RAPID INTERVENTION

Dear reader,

This edition of our regional bulletin presents an interesting mix of activities varying from long term engagements to ad hoc interventions due to emergencies. However, the two are closely linked. It is the accumulated expertise and experience and the relations of trust with partners, communities and authorities that allow us to intervene quickly when needed.

In February 2012, the evacuation of 29 Chinese nationals trapped in South Kordofan, Sudan was definitely a highlight. Benefiting from ICRC's recognised role as a neutral, independent intermediary and in consent with all concerned authorities, the ICRC was able to facilitate their safe transfer to Nairobi where they were handed over to the Chinese Embassy. Despite many technical and political constraints, the operation was set-up and carried out within less than a week with the involvement of the ICRC delegations from Khartoum, Juba, Kinshasa and Nairobi.

In Kenya, the ongoing cooperation with Kenya Red Cross Society in Upper Eastern

region, allowed us to support the latter's response to the eruption of clashes in Moyale in January 2012 with medical and water supply materials, staff and logistics. Another project in the frame of this cooperation was the construction of a water tank to help the population in Mt. Kulal, Marsabit over the dry season.

Our collaboration with the Kenya Defence Forces (KDF) in promoting knowledge and respect of International Humanitarian Law (IHL) is continuing. The KDF engagement in Somalia has definitely added to their awareness on the importance of this law. Judging from the enthusiasm during the recent training of trainers, we are confident that this interest will only intensify in future.

In Djibouti, the ICRC has been visiting Gabode civil prison for many years in order to ascertain the conditions and treatment of the inmates. In 2007, the authorities decided to establish a separate prison service and ICRC provided the services of a specialist to assist in the process. Since then implementation is assisted through

recommendations, training and some infrastructural rehabilitation. Recognising ICRC's expertise, the authorities welcome our continued support.

Finally, we present the Health Care in Danger campaign launched by the ICRC, that aims at improving the security of health service providers and beneficiaries in situations of armed conflict and other emergencies. This campaign comes as a result of a study commissioned by the ICRC, which showed that legally defined protection of health services is less and less respected. The campaign will include many activities to create awareness and promote protection of health services. We are very glad that the KRCS decided to proactively support this campaign.

We wish you happy reading.

Christoph Luedi



ICRC

ICRC FACILITATES THE TRANSFER OF RELEASED CHINESE NATIONALS

One can only imagine the anxiety that the 29 Chinese nationals who found themselves trapped in South Kordofan in Sudan went through during the 11 days they were in the custody of the Sudanese People's Liberation Movement (SPLM)-north sector. It was therefore quite a relief for them when they saw ICRC and Chinese officials who had arrived to take them home.

"When these people saw the Chinese officials coming, speaking to them in their language, they were quite happy. They received food and drinks during the flight. Of course, some of them were really tired. They got some sleep on the plane," said Christoph Luedi, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) Head of Nairobi Regional Delegation.

The 29 Chinese nationals were handed over to officials of the Chinese Embassy in Nairobi after the ICRC facilitated their transfer from South Kordofan in Sudan to Kenya on Tuesday, 7 February 2012.

The Chinese nationals were caught in the fighting that broke out between the SPLM-north sector and the Sudanese Armed Forces near Sudan's Al-Abbasiya

Tagali Town in South Kordofan State on 28 January 2012.

The Chinese nationals, although frail, looked visibly relieved on arrival aboard an ICRC aircraft that touched down at 5.35 p.m. Christoph Luedi and the ICRC Regional Surgeon, Dr Mauro Dalla Torre, accompanied them. The Chinese Ambassador to Nairobi, Liu Guangyuan, with other officials, received the nationals at the Wilson Airport in Nairobi.

"The operation went smoothly," said Mr Luedi during a media interview where he emphasised that the ICRC assisted in the operation on humanitarian grounds, after all the parties concerned accepted its offer to serve as a neutral intermediary.

"This was an excellent cooperation, very close...between the Chinese embassy here in Nairobi and the Chinese embassy in Sudan and other authorities in the countries concerned," he told journalists at the airport.

Mr Liu Guangyuan thanked the ICRC for its role in facilitating the transfer of the Chinese nationals.

"On behalf of the Chinese Government, we would like to say thank you for an excellent job," he noted as the two signed official handover documents.

Over the past few years, the ICRC has undertaken its role of neutral intermediary between Governments and different armed groups in various parts of the world to ensure the safe return of people who have been released. The ICRC stands ready to provide support for any similar operation in the future, if the parties concerned ask it to do so.



Chinese nationals stepping off the ICRC plane at the Wilson Airport in Nairobi, Kenya.

IHL MILITARY INSTRUCTORS COURSE HELD

The International Committee of the Red Cross conducted a Training of Trainers course on International Humanitarian Law (IHL) for the Kenya Defense Forces (KDF). The workshop was hosted at the excellent facilities of the Humanitarian Peace Support School in Embakasi from 5-15 March 2012.

The ICRC has been collaborating with the KDF for over 20 years in the dissemination and integration of IHL in various forums. The workshop highlighted issues such as command responsibility, detention, conduct of hostilities, classification of armed conflict, protection of civilians and wounded combatants and peace support operations.

The aim of this latest workshop was to enable the defense forces appreciate the importance of integrating IHL within their courses and to provide instructors with the necessary skills, reference materials and practical application by the use of case studies.

For Hawa Hadijah Isaack, a KDF Logistics Officer, this was the first time she had heard about IHL. She was quite enthusiastic about the knowledge she had acquired.



The Armed and Security Forces Somalia Delegate, Kenneth Hume, facilitates on IHL during the Military Instructors workshop.

"The workshop has been very enlightening. I am based in Nakuru, and as an officer at the operation level, I have worked in areas that have experienced conflict such as Mt Elgon and Kacheliba. I now understand how I should operate in conflict situations according to IHL," said Hawa.

Hawa like the other participants was also able to understand how the ICRC, operates, its role and guiding principles.

"I love the ICRC. I did not know that it can go to such lengths to help people and impart knowledge," said Hawa.

The participants were fortunate to interact with some of the senior army officials involved in the Somalia operation during which they discussed the successes and challenges experienced in similar operations.

"The workshop is very practical and relevant to us in relation to the military operations in Somalia," said Major Charles Chacha, the Chief Instructor at the Kenya School of Armour.

Some of the facilitators were Andrew Bell and Kenneth Hume, the ICRC Armed Forces delegates for the Nairobi and Somalia delegations respectively and Anne Kilimo, the Communications Coordinator.

As the workshop came to an end, the participants expressed their commitment in educating their colleagues on IHL.



Participants of the Military Instructors Course engage in a practical session during the workshop at HPSS in Embakasi.

WATER PROJECT FOR 6,000 BENEFICIARIES

Water is a treasured commodity all over the world. In Marsabit, water shortage has increased because of the rising population and prolonged drought, making the resource scarce.

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) together with Kenya Red Cross Society (KRCS) initiated a water project in Mt Kulal, Loiyangalani District in Marsabit County aimed at improving the supply of water in the area. Mt Kulal is located about 160km away from Marsabit town. The mountain has a height of 2,335m and overlooks Lake Turkana to the West and Chalbi Desert to the East.

"The Mt. Kulal water project was requested by the Gatab community which was experiencing inadequate water supply because of reduced water flow from the natural springs during the dry seasons," said Joel Ochieng, an Engineer at the ICRC Nairobi Regional Delegation.

The Gatab village has the highest population of 6,000 people among the settlements in the area. The Project entailed installing a pressed steel water tank, of 108,000-litre capacity, which collects water from the natural springs on Mt Kulal for storage. The stored water can last the community for up to three months. This is expected to increase water security during the dry seasons. The ICRC also installed two 10'000 litre tanks of water at Gatab Day and Boarding Primary School.

"The two tanks will improve the school's hygiene. The students will also improve their performance because they will no longer have to miss classes because of having to walk for long distances in search of water," narrated Shadrack Lenguyan, the school's Head Teacher.

The Ksh 2.85 million-water project was commissioned on 21 February 2012. To ensure proper utilisation of resources, a

committee trained on water management will oversee the project. The commissioning ceremony was presided over by Loiyangalani District Commissioner (DC), Philip Koima, who highlighted that the community had been suffering from acute water shortage, as it did not have ways of preserving the water.

"The project will go a long way in not only reducing water shortage but also conflicts which are brought about by competition for water sources between communities during the dry seasons," said the DC.

In Kenya, the ICRC has been working in close cooperation with KRCS in implementing projects in Moyale, Marsabit, Isiolo and Samburu to improve communities access to clean, safe water.



Loiyangalani DC, Philip Koima, commissions the Mt. Kulal water project.

ICRC INTERVENES DURING MOYALE CLASHES



Red Cross personnel conduct an assessment in a village in Moyale County at the height of the clashes.

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) initiated humanitarian interventions in Moyale after clashes erupted between the Borana and the Gabbra communities earlier in the year.

There had previously been reports of attacks at the Kenya-Ethiopia border in November 2011, which increased tension in the areas along the border. In January 2012, clashes also erupted in Moyale town and surrounding villages.

The ICRC and Kenya Red Cross Society conducted a joint assessment to establish the immediate needs of the affected communities and found that more than 30,000 people had been displaced and some were reported to have fled to Ethiopia.

The main areas affected during the clashes which lasted four weeks were; Iladu, Funan-Nyata, Qalaluwe, Kinisa, Mansile, Hadesa, Odha, Heilu, Teso, Manqat, Holale, Goromudha, Harosa and Butiye where more than 400 houses were burnt and property of unknown value destroyed.

Due to the clashes, schools and business premises remained closed. The transport system was crippled leaving people stranded.

In response, the Kenya Red Cross team provided emergency kits comprising of non food items for the affected people. The ICRC provided five bladder tanks, two engine pumps, four tap stands and 20,000 water

purification sachets. These materials were used to facilitate emergency water trucking to eight locations namely; Moyale District Hospital, Sessi, Somare, Butiye, Arosa, Goromudha and Heilu in Moyale County.

The ICRC Regional Surgeon, Dr Mauro Dalla Torre together with doctors from the Moyale District Hospital also conducted surgeries for two people who had sustained gunshot

wounds during the clashes. Sutures, gloves and wound dressing materials were donated to the Hospital.

The area has remained relatively calm since the beginning of February 2012. Villages such as Funan Nyata, Iladu, Mansile and Qalaluwe, which were deserted, are slowly returning to normalcy as residents have begun returning to their homes.

The Kenya Red Cross is still conducting medical outreaches to cater for the affected people.



Construction of a water point in Moyale County.

ICRC CONTINUES TO SUPPORT THE DJIBOUTI PENITENTIARY ADMINISTRATION

Since 1870, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has endeavoured to improve the humanitarian situation of people deprived of liberty. The ICRC is well known for its work on behalf of people detained in connection with international and non-international armed conflicts and other situations of violence.

In Djibouti, the ICRC has been engaged in detention activities in the Gabode prison, which is the only civilian prison in Djibouti. Even though ICRC visits are no longer related to the 1991 – 1994 internal conflict or the 2000 coup attempt, the visits remain relevant, as the feedback has been a working tool for the detaining authorities.

The Djibouti authorities undertook a prison reform, which was adopted at the end of 2008. The ICRC supported the process by providing examples of administrative norms and regulations and by recruiting an external consultant in 2007 to draft the set of regulations, which were largely integrated into the new document. In October 2008, the newly assigned penitentiary administration under the Ministry of Justice started their work and in 2010, the draft

regulations were approved. The penitentiary administration remains keen in receiving technical support from the ICRC, such as thematic training sessions, written recommendations and provision of relevant documentation to their library. The ICRC conducted its first workshop on health and hygiene in detention areas in collaboration with the Ministry of Health on 17-19 April 2012.

The ICRC aims to secure humane treatment and improve the conditions of detainees deprived of their liberty, in accordance with internationally recognised standards. For this reason, it conducts annual prison visits, monitoring the progress of recommendations made in relation to the condition and treatment of detainees from the previous visit. Furthermore, it conducts quarterly vis-



An ICRC personnel visiting a detainee in Gabode prison, Djibouti.

its to restore family links through Red Cross Messages. The ICRC continues supplying a small quantity of hygiene material on a monthly basis to the penitentiary administration, to improve the hygiene conditions of the Gabode Prison.

Some of the support to the penitentiary administration includes rehabilitation of the prison kitchen in 2011 through the Water and Habitat Unit. This year, the ICRC will support the construction of sheltered areas in the courtyard to provide shade for the detainees when they are outdoors.



An ICRC personnel working with a beneficiary to prepare a Red Cross message for Tracing purposes.

HEALTH CARE IN DANGER CAMPAIGN

A pregnant woman about to deliver writhes in pain in her house as members of her family, struggle to help her. The family is helpless as it is not safe to go to hospital and they are not even sure if they will find an operational one nearby. All over the country, businesses, buildings and even hospitals have been destroyed. Everyone is afraid and even the medical personnel have fled as it is no longer safe for them.

This is the common face of armed conflict in many countries around the world. Although protection of civilians and civilian objects such as health care personnel and health care facilities is provided for in International Humanitarian Law (IHL), the reality on the ground is different. Violence, both actual and threatened, against the wounded and the sick and against health-care facilities and personnel is one of the most crucial yet overlooked humanitarian issues today.

Health care personnel in war torn countries are no longer safe to provide medical services as in most cases they become targets of attack. Health care facilities are vandalized, robbed, bombed or torched. Due to such actions, the injured are left unattended and many lives that could have been saved are lost.

The International Committee of the Red Cross, (ICRC) conducted a two and a half year study on health care provision and access in conflict areas. Over the period of study, 1,834 people were killed or injured in health care facilities of which 368 were patients and 159 were health care personnel. Health-care facilities were damaged by explosion in 116 incidents while ambulances were damaged in 32 attacks. The study was conducted in 16 countries where the ICRC is working.

The ICRC in August 2011, launched the global campaign, 'Health Care in Danger' that aims to create awareness and influence change towards protecting health care facilities, health care personnel and medical vehicles, to ensure that all people can access medical services in conflict areas.



The ICRC continues to ensure safer access to health care by spreading knowledge on IHL among military personnel, government officials, non-state opposition groups, the medical establishment and encouraging the incorporation of laws protecting the delivery of health care into domestic legislation.

It is however clear that the health care community alone cannot address the issue

of safeguarding health care, as the primary responsibility lies with governments and combatants. The ICRC aims to mobilise a community of concern on this issue to enhance respect for the law that safeguards health care and, at a field level, to do everything possible to ensure there is safe delivery of effective and impartial health care in all contexts in which it is operational. Let us join hands and support this noble initiative.

NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

GENEVA: REMEMBERING KHALIL DALE

At the end of April 2012, the ICRC received the shocking and devastating news of the murder of Khalil Rasjed Dale, a health-programme manager in Quetta/Balochistan in Pakistan, almost four months after his kidnapping.

Since then, countless messages of condolence have been received, offering not only sympathy but also insight into the gentle, loving and caring person he was. Khalil was described as brave, tireless, inspiring, compassionate and as someone who brought hope to many. He was clearly a remarkable man. The kind of humanitarian who left the



The late Khalil Rasjed Dale.

world a better place and whose passing has touched all of us, whether we knew him personally or not.

"Khalil joined the team in Quetta with a great deal of excitement, motivation and happiness... It's important to know that we desperately needed him and that his presence made a real difference. I will keep Khalil in my heart forever and his memory will give me the strength to keep going," one of the condolence letters' concluded.

We would like to pay tribute to Khalil's life and 30 years of service as a dedicated humanitarian. We will always remember Khalil for his unrelenting engagement towards the people in need, which will remain an example for all of us.

DJIBOUTI: HEALTH AND HYGIENE IN DETENTION WORKSHOP

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) conducted a workshop on health and hygiene in detention on 17-19 April 2012 in Djibouti. The workshop had 30 participants who consisted of prison officers, maintenance personnel, medical personnel and representatives of detainees.

During the workshop, representatives of various departments from the Ministry of Health facilitated in the forum to sensitise on the importance of hygienic practices in Gabode prison and its impact on the health of detainees. The workshop highlighted the challenges faced by the prison authorities.

The workshop was a start in the collaboration and cooperation between the Ministry of Justice and Ministry of Health in relation to Gabode prison.



Some of the participants of the Workshop in Djibouti.

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