



ICRC
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BULLETIN

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



Turkana children share a light moment in Lopiding village, northwestern Kenya

ICRC / Justin Njorin

Protecting Humanity

There has been a historic development in International Humanitarian Law (IHL) and for the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. An additional emblem has been adopted by the international community to add to the red cross and red crescent currently in use to assist in protecting more people during armed conflict.

The new emblem helps promote the principle of universality within the Movement allowing countries that had difficulty in using the red cross or red crescent to use a sign devoid of any religious, political or ethnic connotation. In June 2006, the national societies of Israel and Palestine were recognised and admitted to the International Red Cross Red Crescent movement and are now full members.

The ability to protect people from the effects of armed conflict is at the core of the work of the ICRC and protection is the theme of this edition of the Bulletin. During the elections on the Isles in Tanzania at the end of 2005 the population faced great difficulties. The ICRC visited those detained as a result of unrest and in cooperation with the Tanzania Red

Cross Society (TRCS) provided first aid and medical assistance to the wounded.

During armed conflict family members are often separated. The ICRC helps them to re-establish contact, an activity that occurs both during and after the conflict has finished. The touching story of Triza is just one example of the nearly 3000 people reunited with their families worldwide annually.

The military are the ones primarily responsible for how a conflict is fought, and for whether or not atrocities are committed so their knowledge of IHL is vital to the point that it should become a reflex. The Regional delegation helps make sure teaching of IHL is integrated into the training of the military in sub-Saharan Africa. Exercises such as the one carried out in Kigali, Rwanda are an illustration of this (see page 2).

University students often become leaders within societies and so ICRC supports their institutions in incorporating teaching of IHL into the curricula.

However, the ICRC's activities also seek to alleviate the wider effects of armed violence by providing civilian populations with clean drinking water as well as with

seeds and tools to enable them grow crops to sustain themselves in fragile environments. In some parts of the Greater Horn of Africa region, ICRC provides veterinary services for livestock important to the survival of pastoralist communities who are frequent victims of cattle rustling and banditry.

All of this however has one aim: to alleviate the suffering of people affected by conflict, armed violence or unrest and to reduce the possibility of war crimes and other illegal acts being committed.

Pascal Cuttat
Head of Regional Delegation

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IHL Competitions for the Military

Members of the armed forces of all States that are parties to the Geneva Convention of 1949 must know and respect International Humanitarian Law (IHL). Understanding what IHL entails affords the officers and civilians better protection in times of conflict. A team from Kenya's armed forces recently participated in two major IHL competitions for the military. Communication officer Ken Mutuma reports.



Kenya armed forces team

Humanitarian Law in San Remo, Italy. A total of twenty military academies were represented including those from Australia, Canada, Colombia, Denmark, Finland, France, Greece, India, Ireland, Israel, Kenya, Serbia, Russia and the USA.

At least 100 cadets participated in the San Remo competition and were exposed to presentations from resource persons who comprised academics and senior military officers from a wide range of nationalities.

The competition was organized in two very rigorous phases. In the first phase, the participants were exposed to different aspects of IHL and were expected to contribute in terms of questions and comments on the developments in the law. The second phase comprised a simulated conflict where the cadets/officers were organized in mixed teams representing fictitious countries working under a joint operation centre. This phase required participants to not only be able to articulate IHL issues but also to be able to work across the cultural divide in the decision making process.

At the end of the competition, several officers and teams were awarded prizes. One of the Kenyan officers, Lieutenant Kimanzi Kalamu, together with his team mates from the USA and Greece, received the First Runners-up award for the 2006 competition.

In mid May 2006, General Kianga, Kenya's Chief of General Staff, presided over a formal award ceremony to the Kenyan team in recognition of this exemplary performance.

The ICRC Regional Delegation in Nairobi has in recent years worked closely with the governments of Kenya, Tanzania and Djibouti to enhance the knowledge of IHL among their armed forces.

An integrated team of military officers from the Kenya Army, Air force and Navy emerged winners in the first regional military competition on the Law of Armed conflict held in Kigali in December 2005. The competition attracted teams from Ethiopia, Mauritius, Madagascar, Uganda, Rwanda and Kenya, countries that are all members of the East African Stand-by Brigade of the African Union (EASBRIG).

Over four days, the seven teams, each of three young officers took tests in theory and practice to evaluate their level of knowledge of International Humanitarian Law, and their capacity to apply it in practice. Rwandan and Tanzanian officers, representatives of universities and ICRC delegates evaluated the performance of the different teams.

The final brought together the two best teams – Kenya & Ethiopia - presenting before a jury presided over by General James Kabarebe, Chief of General Staff of

the Rwanda Defence Forces, assisted by Pierre Wettach, Head of Delegation of the ICRC in Rwanda, Colonel Robert Kibochi,

In April 2006, the Kenyan team that won the regional military competition on IHL went on to represent Eastern Africa at the sixth IHL competition for young cadets run by the International Institute for Humanitarian Law in San Remo, Italy.

Chief of Staff of the Eastern Africa Standby Brigade, and Apophie Twine, professor of IHL at the National University of Rwanda.

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New emblem for the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement

For several decades the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement has discussed the idea of creating an additional emblem free from any religious, political and ethnic connotation. In December 2005, an additional third protocol was presented to State parties to the Geneva Conventions of 1949, after more than 15 years of consultations. Senior Communication Officer Anne Kilimo explains the significance of the adoption.

An additional distinctive emblem for the Red Cross Movement was adopted on 8 December 2005 by State Parties to the Geneva Conventions of 1949. A Diplomatic Conference of States Parties to the Geneva Conventions convened by the Swiss Government as Depository of the Geneva Conventions adopted a third protocol additional to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 which allowed for an Additional Distinctive Emblem. The 'Red Crystal' is an additional emblem with equal legal status to the Red Cross and Red Crescent.

The adoption of the protocol marks the end of a long standing concern within the Red Cross and Red Crescent (RC/RC) Movement. Early on in the process the Movement formulated two main reasons for the need to establish an additional emblem: the need to enhance protection in situations of war and conflict and the desire to achieve the principle of universality. The additional emblem will end the need for a proliferation of protective emblems.

The additional emblem is free from any political, religious or cultural connotations and therefore reinforces the neutrality and independence of the international RC/RC Movement. The Red Crystal is just like the

Red Cross and the Red Crescent emblems, the only difference being in graphic design. All are of equal status and meaning, and are established and protected by the Geneva Conventions and protocols.

The essential purpose of the emblems is protection in times of armed conflict. They must arouse a reflex of restraint and respect among combatants. In such instances, they must be in large dimensions. States are required to respect and ensure respect, prevent misuse and familiarize their military and civilian population with the additional emblem.

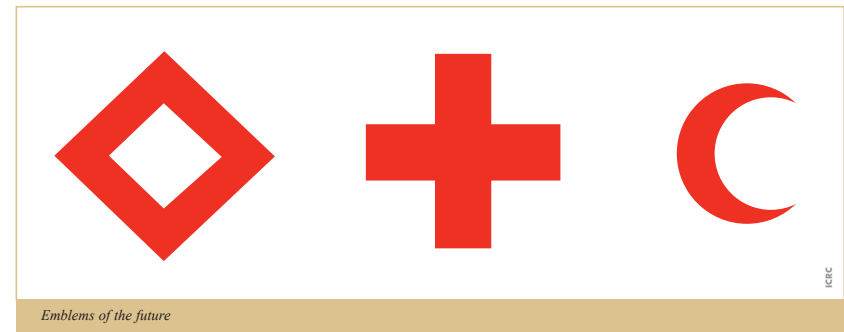
Medical services of armed forces, National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, all civilian medical units and hospitals that are recognised as such by the State, are entitled to use the emblem. Any other use of signs that may be confused with the emblem, the use by unauthorised bodies or persons or their use in wartime to protect armed combatants or military equipment is misuse and a crime.

For the international Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, the Red Crystal is an additional protective device for use in armed conflicts where the existing emblems are perceived to have a political or religious connotation. In exceptional circumstances both the ICRC and the

Federation can use the additional emblem. Existing National Societies are allowed temporary use of the additional emblem without prejudice to the one they currently use. None of the National Societies has to change their existing emblem because of the adoption of the Third Additional Protocol.

In late June 2006, the 29th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent was held in Geneva, Switzerland. With the adoption of the Red Crystal, the national societies of Israel and Palestine were recognised and admitted into the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and are now full members. This makes the total number of national societies 185. Israel had sought membership since the 1930s but objected to using the cross or crescent symbols.

The newly adopted Third Protocol enters into force six months after two governments have ratified it. Before a ratification process can be initiated in the various countries, governments have to sign the protocol as a first step. To date, 54 States have signed it but there are no complete ratifications as yet.



Emblems of the future

ICRC

COOPERATION

Binding wounds in Zanzibar



ICRC office in Zanzibar

A mention of the East African island of Zanzibar always conjures up images of sandy beaches, the clear blue ocean and clove scented air. However, since the advent of multi-party politics in Tanzania in the mid 1990s, Zanzibar has remained the hot-bed of politics with the electioneering period always marked with violence. Media Officer **Jessica Musila** recounts how Red Cross cooperation in 2005 helped respond to the islanders needs.

As 2005 began, the threat of political violence ahead of the general elections scheduled for October that year was very real. Tension between supporters of the two main political parties in the Isles was quite high. The Red Cross did not want to be caught by surprise and contingency planning was a vital strategy. In 2001, violence had erupted during the elections and Tanzania Red Cross Society (TRCS) were almost overwhelmed by the number of injured who needed help. ICRC delegates had also visited those detained in connection with the unrest.

When conflict or civil unrest breaks out, the local population always suffers. Often, some people die and many are injured as they scramble for safety. At times, authorities also detain people rounded up during the unrest.

Preparation and awareness building

Concerted preparedness efforts by the Red Cross had started in late 2004. The ICRC pre-positioned medical supplies in government and private hospitals on Unguja and Pemba islands to reinforce their capacity to cope with the needs of the injured in case of political violence. The supplies included surgical materials, dressing kits, antibiotics, disinfectants and intravenous infusions etc.

Medical staff of Mnazi moja, Al-Rahma, Wete, Mkoani and Chake Chake hospitals were trained on how to handle surgical cases of the weapon wounded and also

advised on the use of the medical supplies. Dispensaries of the Police and Prison services also received some medical stock. "The Red Cross does not make any distinction based on religion, colour, gender, class or political affiliation. Treatment of all injured people is the same," says Otmar Hoffman, the ICRC's Tanzania Head of Mission.

Around 210 Red Cross volunteers on the Isles received first aid and disaster response training to boost their skills and enable them to cope with the needs of the injured. Just before the elections, the TRCS Zanzibar branch received first aid kits, stretchers and blankets and the ICRC also put its vehicles and infrastructure at their disposal. The ICRC had opened an office in Zanzibar in mid August and an ICRC delegate and field officer were stationed there.

The understanding of all parties involved in conflict or civil unrest is crucial to any Red Cross action. Over the year, ICRC delegates together with TRCS representatives held meetings and seminars with various government officials,

opposition party leaders, the police, Zanzibar's special forces and the media to raise awareness about the work of the Red Cross, "what we do and what we won't. All parties were aware that Red Cross staff and volunteers remain neutral and impartial at all times as well as in times of political unrest. And that their response is purely humanitarian driven only by the needs of the victims", explains Otmar.

Response

As campaigns heated up, incidents of violence were reported on the Isles and the medical stock pre-positioned in the hospi-

als was on several occasions used to treat the injured. Most of the injured cases were reported during the campaigns. During the elections on the Isles on October 30 and in the days that followed a number of people were injured. All in all, a few hundred people were treated with the pre-positioned medical supplies.

Between March and late December 2005, ICRC delegates conducted 5 visits to people detained in relation to the political violence on the Isles. As always, after the visits the ICRC provided confidential reports to the Tanzanian govern-

ment. Over the course of 2005, repeated visits were also made to areas on the two Islands that were prone to skirmishes.

The Union elections in December were quiet and President Jakaya Kikwete won the presidency in a landslide victory.

In March 2006, eighty per cent of the medical supplies that remained during the elections were donated to the Ministry of Health for distribution to the four government hospitals in Zanzibar. The remaining 20 per cent went to the Al-Rahma hospital. The ICRC office in Zanzibar was closed in March 2006 and all operations on the Isles are coordinated from Dar es Salaam.



A TRCS volunteer unloads medical supplies from a truck

OTHER ACTIVITIES IN TANZANIA IN 2005

- 15 wells were built on the Isles, 6 in Pemba and 9 in Unguja as well as 6 latrine blocks in several schools
- Detainees under the custody of the International Tribunal for Rwanda were visited twice
- 2 IHL courses with the Tanzania People Defence Force (TPDF)
- Tracing services continued to be extended to some 400'000 refugees living in 12 refugee camps in the Western Corridor, as well as to refugees from Somalia in Chogo settlement.

ICRC hosts premier protection Course in Nairobi

In October 2005, the ICRC delegation in Nairobi launched a Protection Course, targeting humanitarian workers. The premier course sought to address the protection of populations in situations of armed conflict.

Although protection is the primary responsibility of states, humanitarian actors play an important role in identifying the failures of protection and highlighting the proper responsibilities of States and parties to the conflict. Protecting civilians

in the midst of conflict remains a major challenge for humanitarian workers in the field.

The course aims at helping participants to understand the framework of protection activities and the different ways humanitarian and human rights organisations are involved in conflict situations. The aim is that at the end of the course, participants will be able to appreciate the complementarity of the different strategies for dealing with protection issues and be able to put

these strategies into practice.

Participants to the first course were drawn from organisations such as OXFAM, Save the Children UK, Concern, World Vision, UNICEF and the International Rescue Committee. The discussions were very rich as participants shared their mode of operation as far as protection of civilians is concerned.

The course will be run annually.

PROTECTING CHILDREN IN WAR

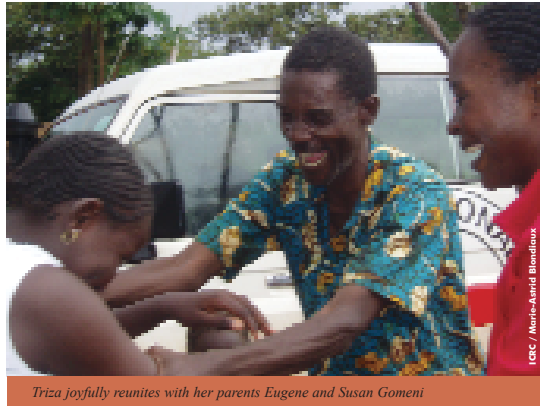
Tears and Joy as family reunites

Of all the suffering caused by armed conflict and violence, one of the most difficult is not knowing what has happened to a child lost during flight. The Media Officer Jessica Musila, narrates a story of a family recently reunited with their child through the ICRC after years of agony.

With tears of joy, Triza Gomeni's parents welcomed her home in late March 2006. The look of bewilderment on Triza's face could not still their joy. Their child was alive and reunited with them in Mkugwa refugee camp in Western Tanzania after eight years of separation.

Eugene* Gomeni and his wife Susan* had presumed their child dead having lost her as they fled armed conflict in Kalemie in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) in 1998. Triza was only four years old! Efforts to later search for their child with the help of friends and relatives were unfruitful.

Seven years later, news from a friend would begin the long road culminating in the family reunification. A fellow refugee who had travelled to Dar es Salaam in



Triza joyfully reunites with her parents Eugene and Susan Gomeni

July 2005 met a mutual friend from DRC who was hosting Triza having presumed her parents dead. The guardian, a Pastor had found the lost girl as people fled Kalemie and taken her in because he knew her parents.

A photo of the girl the guardian sent to Eugene was enough proof of her survival. However, impoverished by difficult circum-

stances, he had no means to get his daughter from Dar es Salaam.

In August 2005, Eugene sought the ICRC's tracing services in Kigoma. He told his story, wrote a Red Cross Message to Triza to share family news and gave the ICRC a photo of himself.

ICRC staff used the information to register and follow up on the child to her last location. Triza was overjoyed to get information that her parents and siblings were alive. Communication between her and her parents continued through RCMs and they asked to be reunited.

As expected before any family reunification, ICRC obtained the consent of each person concerned and verified the relationship. Triza was a priority case as she was an unaccompanied minor a category of people requiring special protection under the Geneva Conventions. It was also clear a family reunification would improve her life.

The ICRC sought authorization from the Tanzanian Ministry of Home Affairs and the UNHCR who manage the refugee situation in Tanzania.

In March this year, six months after the Gomeni family found out that their daughter Triza had survived the war, they were reunited. It was raining when ICRC staff drove into the Gomeni homestead in Mkugwa camp but they all rushed out to welcome her. In addition, Triza discovered her mother was alive and that she also had a fraternal twin, Esperance*. What double joy!

*Names changed for the family's protection.

CHILDREN IN WAR

When an armed conflict or other disaster occurs, many children become separated from their parents or other care-givers. Because their status is seldom immediately clear, they are referred to as "separated" or "unaccompanied children, rather than orphans.

A child means any person under the age of 18, unless under the (national) law applicable to the child, maturity is attained earlier (convention of the Right of the Child, or CRC, Article 1)

Separated Children are those separated from both parents, or from their previous legal or customary care - giver, but not necessarily from other relatives. These may, therefore, include children accompanied by another adult family member.

Unaccompanied children (also called unaccompanied minors) are children who have been separated from both parents and other relatives and not being cared for by an adult who, by law or by custom is responsible for doing so.

Orphans are children, both of whose parents are known to be dead. In some countries, however, a child who has lost one parent is called an orphan.

According to IHL, children shall be provided with the care and aid they require, and (...) all appropriate steps shall be taken to facilitate the reunion of families temporarily separated (Protocol II of 1977, article 4, para. 3 (b))

The High Contracting parties and the parties to the conflict shall facilitate in every possible way the reunion of families dispersed as a result of armed conflicts (...) (Protocol I of 1977, article 74).

ASSISTANCE

New Ways of Looking at Pastoralism

In recent months, a big number of cattle rustling and banditry cases have been reported in Northern Kenya, a cross border issue that affects many countries in the Greater Horn of Africa region. Pastoralism is the main means of livelihood for many nomadic communities living in this region. In December, an ICRC Livestock study focusing on the pastoral livelihoods in the Greater Horn of Africa region was launched. Media Officer Jessica Musila reports about the study's major findings.

Effective help to populations in need depends not so much on pre-conceived assistance strategies that have been tried elsewhere, but on an in-depth analysis of the conflict environment and of the social and economic bases of a given population," Christoph Harnisch, ICRC Director General for Africa told representatives of organisations involved in the livestock sector in the Greater Horn of Africa.

Around 150 representatives of national and international organisations involved in

the ICRC's greatest operations in the world and half of the region's population relies on animals to a significant extent for their survival. For over 20 years the ICRC has strived to give the most suitable assistance to the needs of populations hardest hit by the consequences of conflicts and violence in the region.

Livestock has been long associated with conflict. Animals are often coveted and looted in the course of armed conflict as opposing parties attempt to protect their own herds. Attempts to undermine the survival of civilians

in the study was not in the condition of the animals per se but to understand the consequences of armed conflict on those that depend on livestock in an attempt to alleviate their suffering," Harnisch explained.

"Pastoralism as a livelihood is in crisis and is increasingly characterized by violence," Piers Simpkin, the Livestock Consultant who carried out the research told the forum. He called for holistic interventions that address the causes of the problems rather than just the effects of the programmes as most current programmes do.

According to Simpkin, "Interventions would be more effective if there was a harmonisation of approaches between agencies and donors and early warning systems were better linked to responses. Livelihood diversification at the community level and improvement of production methods should also be encouraged to support the growing population.

The ICRC first operated livestock programmes in South Sudan between 1988 and 1991, and in Somalia between 1992 and 1993. All the projects were animal health oriented and aimed to reduce the risk of mortality of herds in areas affected by the conflict, as well as to increase productivity of the remaining flocks. Under the programme the animals were vaccinated or treated against killer diseases such as Rinderpest, anthrax etc. In both contexts basic veterinary services were absent and the ICRC was able to maintain the pastoralists' survival strategies while preserving dignity. Similar operations by the ICRC are currently going on in all the Horn of Africa countries.

In Kenya, ICRC Livestock interventions have mainly involved pastoralist communities in northern Kenya especially the Turkana and Pokot. In March this year, the ICRC launched a parasite control intervention in Nanaam and Songot in northern Turkana. Five hundred pastoralist families received vouchers for the treatment of 25,000 sheep and goats that took place over two months.

Healthier livestock mean healthier people and in turn helps reduce impoverishment, a key cause of tension and conflict among pastoralist communities.



Deworming goats in Turkana, northwestern Kenya

the livestock sector attended the launch of an ICRC report on Livestock in the Greater Horn of Africa region on 14 December 2005. The livestock sector is often at the centre of conflict or tension related emergencies amongst pastoralist communities.

Today, the Horn of Africa accounts for

so as to respond more appropriately to conflict related emergencies among livestock owners.

"Over the years underlying causes of conflict in countries in the Horn of Africa have been similar and so are the humanitarian consequences. The ICRC's interest

ICRC NEWS



Kenyan medics listen to Monica Zanarelli, the Head of Sub-delegation in Lokichokkio during war-surgery seminar

War surgery seminar for Kenyan medics

In January, sixteen medics working in hospitals in the Mandera, Moyale, Marsabit, West Pokot and Turkana districts of Kenya attended a four-day war surgery course at the ICRC Lopiding hospital in Lokichokkio. The participants who included surgeons, anaesthetists, general practitioners and occupational therapy nurses were selected jointly by the ICRC and Kenya's Ministry of Health.

The training was to reinforce their capacity to cope with the needs of the injured in the remote districts that are prone to tensions and outbursts of armed violence. The Nairobi based Regional Surgeon facilitated the seminar and shared ICRC's experience in treating the weapon wounded and the management of medical establishments in case of a mass influx of casualties. Enhancing the skills of medical staff working in zones prone to tensions or even armed conflict often helps to save lives.

Last year, the ICRC assisted hospitals in both Marsabit and Mandera districts with surgical and dressing materials to enable them to attend to dozens injured in ethnic tensions in the area.

Lopiding handover

On 30 June 2006, ICRC handed over Lopiding hospital to Kenya's Ministry of Health after close to 20 years of opera-

tion. The 600-bed surgical hospital was established in 1987 to mainly treat war wounded South Sudanese and has for more than 10 years also attended to Kenyans. The government will however convert Lopiding hospital to a sub-district hospital with a 150-bed capacity only. More details will follow in the next edition of the Bulletin.

National Moot Court

Thirty students from various Kenyan Universities participated in the National Moot Court competition held in Nairobi in September, 2005. The one day event was held in order to select the best Kenyan teams that would represent the country at the International Moot Court Competitions held annually in Arusha. Each team comprised three students.

The "Tigers", a team from the Nairobi University's Parklands campus won the competition with "Icons of Humanity" from Moi University taking second position while "LAN", also from Parklands were third. The three teams represented Kenya at the International Competition in Arusha in November, 2005.

International Moot Court Winners

A University of Nairobi Law Team emerged winners of the International Moot Court competition held in Arusha,

Tanzania in late November 2005. The three students in the team received individual trophies as well as cheques for their exemplary performance. Allan Rutambo, a student who was also part of the Best team was chosen as the best orator and was awarded a three month internship with the ICTR starting in September 2006.

First Entry to the Jean Pictet Competition

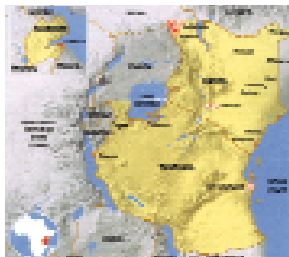
In March 2006, a University of Nairobi team participated in the Jean Pictet competition in Serbia Montenegro. This was the first time a team from a university in East Africa had participated in this competition. The Kenyan team was the same one that won the 2005 edition of the International Moot Court competition in Arusha. The Jean Pictet competition is similar to the International Moot Court and also focuses on International Humanitarian Law (IHL). Forty eight teams from five continents took part in either the Francophone or the Anglophone sessions of the competition.

Drought response in Kenya

Since January 2006, the ICRC has supported the Kenya Red Cross drought relief efforts by making trucks and trailers available to transport relief supplies. Staff of the national society was also trained in warehouse stock management and their vehicles equipped with radios.

In April, ICRC launched a parasite-control programme in northern Turkana. Twenty five thousand sheep and goats of some 500 pastoralist families received treatment that is expected to make the animals more resistant to dry spells. Some 500 agro-pastoralist families in Orwa and Loyapat in West Pokot and Turkana respectively received seeds and tools just before the onset of the long rain period.

In early May, the two organisations also assessed the preparedness of hospitals to treat gunshot wounds in Marsabit and Moyale districts which have been prone to clashes in recent weeks.



ICRC Nairobi Regional Delegation, Denis Pitt Road, PO Box 73226, Nairobi, Kenya.
Tel: (+254) 20 272 3963. Fax: (+254) 20 271 3003. E-mail: nairobi.nai@icrc.org

ICRC Dar es Salaam Mission, PO Box 23421, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.
Tel: (+255) 222 668 552. Fax: (+255) 222 667 797. E-mail: mab_dar.nai@icrc.org

ICRC Djibouti Sub-Delegation, Rue Ras Mekonnen, Apt No 4, PO Box 2527, Djibouti.
Tel: (+253) 352 6111. Fax: (+253) 352 156. E-mail: nairobi.nai@icrc.org

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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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