



IRCS

# NEWSLETTER

ICRC - AUTUMN 2014

## LEST WE FORGET!

### EDITORIAL



Recently, we watched the people of Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) grapple with one of the worst floods

in over half a century. The floodwaters have receded but they have left in their wake proof of the scale of the devastation – of personal loss and extensive damage to infrastructure. In the immediate aftermath of the floods, shelter, health and sanitation and other basic needs must be addressed even as the unforgiving winter approaches.

The floods left hundreds dead and thousands displaced, including our colleagues in Srinagar. Our relief, when we were finally able to contact all of our colleagues and receive news of their safety, is a humble reminder of the importance of contact with family and friends, during emergency situations such as this. It also reminds us of the work done, around the world, by our colleagues in the ICRC and National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies to locate people and put them back into contact with their relatives or clarify the fate of those who remain missing

even as conflicts, disasters or migration continue to separate thousands of family members every year.

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) continues to - as we did during the floods - support the efforts of the Indian Red Cross Society (IRCS), especially in providing relief material: from life jackets to blankets, solar lanterns to chlorine tablets, and an inflatable boat. We remain committed to provide, through our partners, our support in every way possible in responding to this tragedy.

With active operations in so many emergencies around the world, the ICRC, along with its Movement partners, has been bringing assistance to those most in need. In these situations, as one learns from one crisis to the next, providing appropriate material aid is critically important. We believe that people affected by conflict and armed violence should play a central role in determining solutions to the problems they face. Thus, we tailor our activities and relief materials to the specific needs of the vulnerable communities whether it is kitchen sets or blankets, buckets or mattresses, psycho-social support or training on mass casualty triage. India,

over the years, is one of the countries from which we source, or purchase, large amounts of relief items. Hence, some of the goods distributed in South Sudan, Syria or Somalia started their journey in India. While the Indian government and people have been providing humanitarian assistance globally through their own channels, we at the ICRC also recognise the importance of the Indian markets in the realm of ICRC's operations.

We look forward to engaging and partnering with the diverse stakeholders, including the Government of India, as we deal with the challenges of the constantly evolving humanitarian landscape.

**Mary Wertz**  
Head of the Regional Delegation  
New Delhi



ICRC

# UPDATE

## JAMMU AND KASHMIR FLOODS: SUPPORTING EMERGENCY RELIEF

The unprecedented floods in the state of J&K in September 2014 has resulted in loss of property, livestock and household items required to meet daily needs. As the affected families are returning to their houses, they are finding it difficult to get back to a normal routine in the absence of essential household items which were washed away during floods. The ICRC, in consultation with the J&K authorities – Chief Commissioner, Srinagar and Divisional Commissioner Jammu - is planning to support 5,000 households by providing essential household items (EHI). These items will include clothing, bedding, footwear, hygiene material, buckets, utensils and stationary items. To avoid duplication and optimal utilisation of resources, the ICRC would request district authorities to share the list of participants receiving EHI with the Indian Red Cross Society (IRCS), J&K branch and other institutions who are involved in post emergency distribution phase.

To complement the IRCS efforts to support the flood-affected population in J&K, the ICRC, has provided 23,320 blankets to the IRCS J&K state branch, 10,000 blankets to IRCS Jammu regional branch and 16,680 to IRCS National Headquarters (NHQ). Further, the ICRC has also provided 3,000 solar lanterns, 200 body bags and 50 life jackets

to the IRCS NHQ. In addition, one boat, six life jackets, basic stationary items, two laptops, a camera and 10 pen drives has been provided to the IRCS J&K state branch. The ICRC is in discussions with the IRCS NHQ to support more office equipment for IRCS J&K state branch.

To supplement the Government's efforts to support medical facilities in Srinagar, the ICRC has provided 4,000 pairs of latex gloves, 8,000 water purification powder sachets, 2,760 packets of bleaching powder (500 gm each), 1,125 pairs of surgical gloves, 492 rolls of bandage gauze and 50 mattresses.

The ICRC is continuously in discussion with the relevant authorities and the IRCS (NHQ) to support further efforts in the post-emergency phase of J&K floods.



Flood-affected people flock to a Red Cross tent in Srinagar, Jammu and Kashmir.

Atishay Abbi/ICRC

Even as the relief operations carried out by IRCS, supported by ICRC, continue, we share here some of the images captured during the first two weeks of providing emergency relief.

For more follow us at <http://blogs.icrc.org/new-delhi/j-k-relief-update/>



IRCS



**ICRC salutes the spirit of local volunteers**

When the deluge left hundreds dead and thousands homeless in Jammu and Kashmir, students, Red Cross volunteers, young and old people actively took part in the rescue operations. Many risked their lives to rescue neighbours and friends from rooftops and collapsing houses; many others set out in improvised boats to save people; those trained in basic first aid put their skills to use attending to the injured and the sick. Local communities came together to organize rescue and relief efforts, displaying their solidarity and the resilience of the human spirit. The ICRC salutes the spirit of these local volunteers.



# BUSINESS

## KITCHEN SETS TO ENGINEERING MACHINES: HUMANITARIAN CONNECTION OF INDIA'S PRODUCERS

As part of its mandate, the ICRC responds quickly and efficiently to help people affected by armed conflict. With a presence in more than 80 countries across the globe, emergency relief items are shipped to humanitarian operations worldwide as and when there is a need. Along with the local Red Cross society, ICRC brings assistance to victims by providing medical care, setting up hospitals and rehabilitation centres. It also assists civilians by providing appropriate material aid needed, such as food, water and sanitation, shelter and clothing etc. ICRC sources these relief materials from different markets across the world. India is one of

the countries from where a majority of the purchases are made.

So the next time you see ICRC providing relief aids in countries like South Sudan, Syria, and Somalia to populations affected by conflict, there is a good chance that some of those goods might have travelled all the way from India. Rodney Gallwey, Asia Sourcing Manager for the ICRC Regional Delegation in New Delhi gives us some insights into the importance of the Indian market to ICRC's operations of providing humanitarian assistance globally.



ICRC's Asia Sourcing Manager, Rodney Gallwey, performing onsite assessment of blankets from an Indian supplier

### Why is Indian market important for ICRC?

The Indian market provides us almost all that we need. India is well placed in terms of geographical location and can supply conveniently to the Middle East and Africa. And a good connectivity means we can get emergency goods to crisis zones very quickly from India. Every year the purchase from the Indian market is increasing by 10-15% and in the future too, India will play a major role in procurement activities for ICRC.

### What are basic guidelines that ICRC follows while identifying a supplier?

The ICRC's main objective, like in any other country, is to first identify socially compliant enterprises/manufacturers who strictly adhere to the ICRC's ethical standards principles and comply with the Indian factory act regarding child labour or forced labour, minimum wages, good working conditions for employees, security and hygiene of premises, environmental concerns, etc. The ICRC does not work with companies that are involved in the manufacturing of arms and ammunitions.

### What kind of goods are procured from India?

Here we purchase mainly non-food items which include kitchen sets, plastic mats, blankets, towels, and also engineering machines such as ice crusher machines

etc. We also buy food-items which includes enriched foods with vitamins and some medical items such as bandages, surgical gloves etc.

### How long has the ICRC been purchasing from the Indian market

We have been buying products for a long time but it is since 2009 that there has been a 40-50% increase in purchasing of relief and aid material from the Indian markets. Though our suppliers are spread throughout the country, but many of them are in the states of Haryana, Punjab, Gujarat, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu.

### To which countries do these goods go?

Our current statistics show that it goes to Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Central Africa, Israel, Korea, Lebanon, Mali, Philippines, Somalia, South Sudan, Syria, Chad, Uganda, Yemen among many others.

### What does the future hold for Indian markets especially in terms of trends for it to emerge as a leader?

India is a very interesting market in terms of pricing. Nevertheless at times we need to intervene and support the Small and Medium Enterprises in order to reach a minimum level of social and quality compliance. But having said that, the trends in procurement and supply chain look very

promising. I was one of the jury members at the recently organised 2nd Annual Chief Procurement Officer (CPO) Forum India & Awards 2014 in Mumbai and I can foresee that in next ten years procurement will be linked to e-sourcing platforms, e-auctions and companies will increasingly develop electronic tools for their ordering and stock management mechanism.

*Log on to the ICRC New Delhi blog (blogs.icrc.org/new-delhi) to read our three-post series-Raising the Bar which focuses on how the ILO and the ICRC are promoting responsible enterprises through the Sustaining Competitive and Responsible Enterprises (SCORE) Training project.*

*Relief goods worth INR 2.5 Crores were purchased from Indian markets for providing assistance to those affected by floods in J&K. The distribution of relief goods comprising of blankets, solar lamps, chlorine sachets, bleaching powder, hospital beds, life jackets, inflatable boat, hospital mattresses and pillows were carried out in close coordination with the IRCS*



Prof Neera Chandhoke addresses the participants during the first Humanitarian Tiffin Talk.

## DIALOGUE

### FROM AID TO PARTNERSHIPS: INDIA'S HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

It is a well-known fact that India has been a long-standing recipient of aid from developed countries; but what is lesser known is its own role as a donor for development assistance to other countries. In the last decade, India has quietly become a significant donor of aid to other less developed countries.

While India's development assistance started in the 1940s, the dimensions of its foreign assistance have grown rapidly since the late 1990s, increasing seven-fold between 2000 and 2014. In 2014, Indian development assistance stands at about \$1.4 billion.

Taking a step forward, in 2012, the Indian

government also launched a coordinating and monitoring body for Indian foreign assistance within the Ministry of External Affairs called the Development Partnership Administration (DPA). Aimed to evolve as a full-fledged aid agency, the formation of the DPA is widely recognized as an encouraging step for the decentralized and fragmented Indian aid programme.

Even as much of India's aid money goes to immediate neighbours — Bhutan, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka and the Maldives, India has also extended the reach of its assistance well beyond South Asia.

The rise of India as a donor country has also

augmented its humanitarian contributions. "India has the potential to match its global aspirations in humanitarian action. The country's reputed domestic disaster response and generous development budget would allow for a more significant humanitarian engagement," wrote Andras Horvath of Global Public Policy Institute in a research paper titled, "India as a Humanitarian Donor in the 21st Century: The Seeds of a more ambitious role."

To discuss and highlight the emergence of India as a humanitarian donor, the ICRC New Delhi delegation had a stimulating discussion on the same topic (details below) where experts shared their views.

## ICRC NEW DELHI ROLLS OUT HUMANITARIAN TIFFIN TALKS

The ICRC regional delegation in New Delhi started a series of informal discussions aimed at initiating dialogue and sharing experiences on opportunities and challenges pertaining to the humanitarian system. Titled Humanitarian Tiffin Talk, the first in the series was held in the office of the regional delegation in New Delhi on 2nd September and attended by more than 35 participants representing international humanitarian organizations, academia, media, the Red Cross movement as well as other stakeholders.

The topic for the first talk was –"India's emerging role as a humanitarian donor

in the 21st century", where Dr Urvashi Aneja, associate professor of international relations and director of the Centre for Global Governance and Policy at the Jindal School of International Affairs, OP Jindal Global University, Haryana spoke on the topic. Professor Neera Chandhoke, national fellow at the Indian Council of Social Science Research, graciously chaired the session. Dr Aneja spoke on the history of India's development assistance; India's humanitarian assistance; the drivers of Indian foreign policy and how this translates into India's understanding of humanitarianism and its implications for India as a donor in the 21st century. The talk

was followed by a question-and-answer session open to the audience in which Dr Aneja answered questions ranging from the motivation behind India's humanitarian aid policy to what could be the way forward for India, especially in South Asia.

The ICRC continues to host a series of tiffin talks. While the second talk discussed International Humanitarian Law and Cyber Warfare, the third talk held recently in the first week of November was titled Saving the Saviours: a humanitarian regime under attack. To know more about the talks log on to our blog at <http://blogs.icrc.org/new-delhi/>

# ENGAGEMENTS



## **TIFFIN TALK: ICRC NEW DELHI SETS BALL ROLLING FOR SERIES OF INFORMAL CHATS ON HUMANITARIANISM**

The ICRC regional delegation in New Delhi organized the first Humanitarian Tiffin Talk wherein India's Humanitarian Donorship in the 21st century was discussed. The talk was attended by Red Cross Movement partners, academics, journalists and other actors in the humanitarian space.

More at: <http://blogs.icrc.org/new-delhi/2014/09/03/tiffin-talk-icrc-new-delhi-sets-ball-rolling-for-series-of-informal-chats-on-humanitarianism/>



## **150 YEARS OF HUMANITARIAN ACTION: PHOTO EXHIBITION SHOWCASED IN BANGALORE SCHOOL**

To celebrate 150 years of humanitarian action ICRC regional delegation in New Delhi has put together a travelling photo exhibition which was showcased recently at Bishop Cotton Boys' School in Bangalore. Around 2,000 children from 50 schools across Bangalore visited the photo exhibition and were treated to a screening of animated features on the International Red Cross Red Crescent Movement and its principles.

More at: <http://blogs.icrc.org/new-delhi/2014/08/25/150-years-of-humanitarian-action-photo-exhibition-showcased-in-bangalore-school/>



## **NLU JODHPUR RETAINS HENRY DUNANT MOOT COMPETITION TROPHY**

The team from National Law University (NLU), Jodhpur, clinched the Henry Dunant memorial trophy for the second time in a row. The Henry Dunant Memorial Moot Competition is one of the flagship IHL events of the ICRC in India, and attracts students from various parts of the country.

More at: <http://blogs.icrc.org/new-delhi/2014/08/19/nlu-jodhpur-retains-the-henry-dunant-moot-competition-trophy/>



## **WORKSHOP ON REPORTING IN EMERGENCIES: 'DON'T SHOW WHAT IS BEYOND NECESSARY'**

The ICRC, in partnership with Women's Feature Service (WFS), recently organised a day-long workshop for working journalists in New Delhi. The workshop was inaugurated by Dr Najma Heptullah, Minister of Minority Affairs of the Government of India. More than 30 journalists from national newspapers, online portals and development networks attended the training.

More at: <http://blogs.icrc.org/new-delhi/2014/09/19/workshop-on-reporting-in-emergencies-don-t-show-what-is-beyond-necessary/>



## **ICRC CONDUCTS IHL TRAINING FOR UN PEACEKEEPING MISSION**

The ICRC regional delegation in New Delhi recently held a pre-deployment training on international humanitarian law (IHL) for 200 officers of all ranks from the 12th Battalion of the Jammu & Kashmir Light Infantry (12 JAK LI) contingent proceeding for a UN Peacekeeping Mission to South Sudan at Delhi Cantonment on 25-26 September 2014.

<http://blogs.icrc.org/new-delhi/2014/10/30/photo-gallery-icrc-conducts-ihl-training-for-indian-army-battalion-ahead-of-un-mission-to-south-sudan/>

# BEYOND INDIA

## SUDAN: ICRC SET TO RESUME ITS HUMANITARIAN WORK

The Sudanese authorities have lifted the suspension of activities of the ICRC, even while discussions on practical arrangements to promote effective coordination between the humanitarian organization and the country's authorities are still under way.

More: <https://www.icrc.org/en/document/sudan-icrc-set-resume-its-humanitarian-work#.VCPaeEqSzIU>



## EBOLA: STEPPING UP THE HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

The devastating effects of the Ebola epidemic in Liberia, Guinea and Sierra Leone have put a strain not only on the countries' health-care systems but also on their economies. As the authorities and the international community respond to the influx of Ebola patients, the ICRC is making its expertise available to health facilities and aid workers dealing with the outbreak.

More: [https://www.icrc.org/en/document/ebola-stepping-humanitarian-response#.VCO\\_nUqSzIU](https://www.icrc.org/en/document/ebola-stepping-humanitarian-response#.VCO_nUqSzIU)



## UKRAINE: ICRC STEPS UP AID AMID FRAGILE CEASEFIRE

The 5 September ceasefire agreement has brought some respite to people affected by the conflict in eastern Ukraine. Amid hopes that this will lead to a permanent cessation of hostilities, the ICRC is helping people face the consequences of the fighting.

More: [https://www.icrc.org/en/document/ukraine-icrc-steps-aid-amid-fragile-ceasefire#.VCO\\_q0qSzIU](https://www.icrc.org/en/document/ukraine-icrc-steps-aid-amid-fragile-ceasefire#.VCO_q0qSzIU)



## SOMALIA: URGENT FOOD AID FOR 36 000 DISPLACED PEOPLE

The ICRC, assisted by the Somali Red Crescent Society, just completed a distribution of food to over 36,000 displaced people in the town of Beletweyne, in the central part of the country. In addition, 4,000 children under five years of age and 860 pregnant women were provided with one-month supplies of therapeutic nutritional products.

More: <https://www.icrc.org/en/document/somalia-urgent-food-aid-36-000-displaced-people#.VCPaaUqSzIU>



## FACTOID: CALL FOR PAPERS

The International Review of the Red Cross, a specialized journal in humanitarian law published by the International Committee of the Red Cross and Cambridge University Press has announced the future themes for the upcoming issues of the journal. Promoting reflection on humanitarian law, policy and action in armed conflict and other situations of collective armed violence,

the journal has announced call for papers for the undermentioned topics.

- Humanitarian principles  
*Submissions deadline: 1 December 2014*
- The humanitarian consequences of nuclear, radioactive, biological and chemical weapons  
*Submissions deadline: 1 January 2015*

- The evolution of warfare since World War I  
*Submissions deadline: 1 March 2015*

For more, visit: <https://www.icrc.org/eng/resources/international-review/international-review-future-themes.htm>

# OUTREACH

## WEB: VISIT OUR NEW ICRC WEBSITE

In early September, ICRC launched its redesigned website. The ICRC website is available in 7 languages which includes English, Français, Español, Português, Arabic, Russian, Chinese. The ICRC also produces documents in a range of other languages. *See more at [www.icrc.org](http://www.icrc.org)*

## WEB



## BLOG



## BLOG: STAY TUNED FOR UPDATES FROM INDIA AND OTHER COUNTRIES ACROSS SOUTH ASIA

Early this year, The ICRC in New Delhi launched the New Delhi Blog which aims to create a space for those involved in humanitarian action and thinking to share and exchange their views and experiences. *See more at <http://blogs.icrc.org/new-delhi/>*

## PUBLICATIONS: LIVING WITH ABSENCE: HELPING THE FAMILIES OF THE MISSING

This publication intends to raise awareness about the plight of the missing and their families. It describes the holistic response of the ICRC to their needs and refers to real-life examples of the organization's work in recent years worldwide. *See more at <https://www.icrc.org/eng/resources/documents/publication/p4152.htm>*

## PUBLICATIONS



## VIDEO



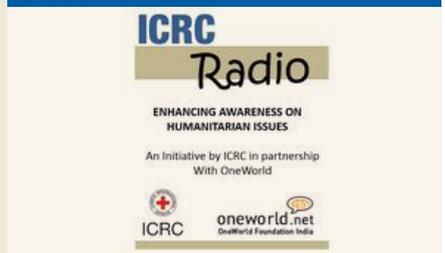
## VIDEO: RULES OF WAR (IN A NUTSHELL)

This video released on 22nd August 2014 to mark the 150th anniversary of the original Geneva Convention explains the basics of international humanitarian law and calls on all parties of all conflicts to preserve what it means to be human, by complying with international humanitarian law. *See more at <https://www.icrc.org/en/document/rules-war-nutshell#VCPJkEqSzIU>*

## RADIO: ICRC RADIO TO ENHANCE THE AWARENESS ON HUMANITARIAN ISSUES

The ICRC in New Delhi has launched ICRC Radio in partnership with OneWorld Foundation India. The partnership through a series of radio programmes aims to enhance awareness on humanitarian issues using radio communication. The series is broadcasted in All India Radio's (AIR) FM Rainbow India channel i.e. 102.6 MHz. *See more at <http://edaa.in/campaigns/icrc-radio>*

## RADIO



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