



# FACTS & FIGURES

# ERITREA

## ICRC

January - December 2013

*In 1998, the ICRC opened its office in Eritrea and worked throughout the 1998-2000 armed conflict with Ethiopia, protecting and assisting persons affected by the conflicts. Nowadays, the ICRC remains active in the country to contribute its humanitarian role in alleviating the problems and sufferings arising from the conflicts and the continuous border stalemate.*

### **Conflict-affected border communities rebuilt their livelihoods**

In cooperation with the Ministry of Agriculture, the ICRC has accomplished an extensive anti-parasite treatment campaign that treats 2'378'260 animals in the regions of Gash-Barka, Debub, Southern and Northern Red Sea. It is ICRC biggest anti-parasite treatment program since it started in 2009 and it benefited 72'030 pastoralist families (360'150 individuals).

In addition, the ICRC's foot pump and vegetable seeds distribution program has also increased households' capacity of food production. The ICRC distributed 75 foot-pumps and vegetable seeds to 300 households in regions of Anseba and Debub.

The Erratic and short rainfall usually causes dry seasons in Eritrea that harms animal productivity. To alleviate the water shortage for livestock, the ICRC constructed two ponds in villages of Adi Sherif and Derseney in Gash Barka. The ponds will benefit animals from both villages and migratory animals from high lands.

The ICRC has addressed the local authority's request for the shelter crisis of the displaced people residing in the border areas of the Southern Red Sea region after their village was destroyed by the Nabro volcanic eruption in 2011. 5'445 displaced people rebuilt their homes thanks to the artisanal shelter produced by 1'190 households financed by the ICRC.



**ICRC livestock treatment program in Demas (Northern Red Sea)**

### **Communities access new/rehabilitated sources of water**



**Women fetching water from ICRC installed water system in Adi-Begdi (Gash-Barka)**

In collaboration with Eritrean local authorities, the ICRC maintained its effort to provide adequate water supply in Gash-Barka, Debub and Southern Red Sea. The ICRC continued to repair and maintain those of previously installed water systems in the regions; however, due to government's travel restrictions to ICRC expatriates for pre assessment, no new water project could be initiated.

Water remains a challenge to communities living in or around the conflict affected border areas with Ethiopia. The ICRC, together with the local authorities and the communities, worked to accomplish solar-powered water systems. Given communities' limited resources and fuel shortage, solar-powered water systems ensure sustainable supply.

The ICRC installed three new solar-powered water systems in the villages of Balkay, Ghirmayka and Hadish Adi in Gash Barka that benefit to 17,000 residents. In addition, the ICRC technicians fixed failed water supply systems in 5 villages in Gash-Barka, 1 in Southern Red Sea and 1 in Debub. The ICRC water maintenance works has enabled around 24 000 residents of those villages to have access to potable water inside their villages.

## Local leaders and the general public learn more about IHL



### *Children embraced ICRC publications during Asmara Book Fair*

The ICRC continued its effort in promoting the International Humanitarian Law (IHL) by maintaining its contact with the national authorities. Moreover, it conducted IHL information sessions to local authorities, civilians and the general public to increase their IHL knowledge.

The ICRC offered government officials both expertise and resource to participate in the IHL customary law research and to publish the translated Geneva Conventions of 1949.

Thanks to the cooperation of the National Union of Eritrean Youth and Students (NUEYS), more than 3000 people increased their knowledge of the IHL and the ICRC through information sessions conducted in Anseba, Northern Red Sea and Southern Red Sea zobas, and to the Colleges. The ICRC has taken part in public events like the Eritrean Book Fair and Regional Youth Festival to spread the knowledge of the IHL among the public by conducting presentations, distributing publications and leaflets. In addition, the ICRC issued several IHL articles in the bi-monthly youth magazine to increase the understanding the IHL among the Eritrean society.

## Vulnerable groups benefit from financial support and family-links services

The ICRC has continued to support vulnerable Ethiopian civilians and restore family links through Red Cross Message (RCM) services for people affected by the border conflicts between Eritrea and Ethiopia.

It provided financial aid to people of Ethiopian origin to obtain residence permits if they wished to stay in Eritrea, or to enable them to cover transport and other expenses if they wished to be repatriated. It extended its support for the most vulnerable who are incapable to cover their medical bills.

To enable them to apply for further studies or jobs, Eritrean and Ethiopian nationals had important documents, including school transcripts, sent across the sealed border or elsewhere in the world with ICRC assistance.

The ICRC pursued dialogue on resuming visits to place of detention.



### *Familiarizing with RCM during ICRC information session in Dahlak Island*

Dialogue continues with the “**Red Cross Society of Eritrea**” on possible resumption of cooperation and to support in building its capacities and to conduct any joint activities.

## Mission

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) is an impartial, neutral and independent organization whose exclusively humanitarian mission is to protect the lives and dignity of victims of armed conflict and other situations of violence and to provide them with assistance. The ICRC also endeavours to prevent suffering by promoting and strengthening humanitarian law and universal humanitarian principles. Established in 1863, the ICRC is at the origin of the Geneva Conventions and the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. It directs and coordinates the international activities conducted by the Movement in armed conflicts and other situations of violence.



# ICRC

[www.icrc.org](http://www.icrc.org)

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