



ICRC

No. 4, February 2003

BULLETIN

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



The aftermath of the Mombasa bombing

Photo: Edward Parsons / Phox Photography

Terror strikes again

Kenya, the host country of our regional delegation, has once again been hit by a terrorist attack. November's savage bombing of the Paradise Hotel in Mombasa, better known for its white beaches and coconut trees, was as tragic as it was unexpected. Most of the victims were Kenyans, among them traditional dancers innocently preparing to welcome tourists to the sun-drenched shores of the Indian Ocean.

For many, the Mombasa atrocity brought back painful memories of the bomb attack aimed at the US embassy in Nairobi on August 7, 1998, when more than 250 Kenyans lost their lives and several hundred were injured.

In Mombasa, as previously in Nairobi, the Kenya Red Cross Society (KRCS) was prompt to respond with dozens of disciplined and organised volunteers, who assisted authorities mobilising whatever means were available. (see p. 4).

The outrages in Kenya, the attacks in New York and Washington on September 11, 2001, and the so-called war on terror since then have provoked deep reflection within the ICRC. For there are some in the international community who are now asking if the existing laws, particularly International Humanitarian Law (IHL), are adequate or even relevant to what many see as a new and dangerous world order.

Speaking to the 58th Annual Session of the UN Commission on Human Rights in Geneva, ICRC President Jakob Kellenberger was adamant that they were.

"The problem is not so much the lack of rules and provisions, but rather the lack of respect for those rules and the political will to apply them... International law, if correctly applied, is one of the strongest tools that the community of nations has at its disposal in the effort to reestablish international order and stability."

This edition of our Bulletin, therefore, focuses on the ICRC's efforts to make the rules of IHL - enshrined in the Geneva Conventions - known to as many groups as possible. Our dissemination programmes have recently targeted police and the armed forces, UN and NGO representatives (see p. 3), academic circles (see p. 2) and schoolchildren (see p. 8). In other countries more directly affected by conflict, the ICRC aims to talk to all arms bearers in a bid to restore some degree of humanity.

Often the hardships that violence inflicts on countless men, women and children are compounded by natural disasters, but the ICRC is there to help too (floods in Tana River in Kenya and drought in Ethiopia; see p. 6 and 7).

The ICRC is promoting IHL in the region in order to ensure protection and as-

sistance to all persons affected by war based on the values underlying IHL treaties: humanity and respect for individual dignity.

The achievements described in this edition of our Bulletin would not have been possible without the high level of cooperation between our regional delegation and the national Red Cross societies of the region, of which the Kenya Red Cross Society is one of the most prominent. We therefore seize this opportunity to present our thanks to Abbas Gullet, who is leaving the KRCS after two years as Secretary General, and to welcome his replacement, Mary Kuria, at the helm of the Society (see p. 5).

Vincent Nicod
Head of Regional Delegation

PREPARING TOMORROW'S LEADERS	2
HUMANITARIANS AND THE LAW	3
TERROR IN PARADISE	4
CHANGING THE GUARD	5
DELIVERING THE GOODS	6
ELECTION NEWS	7
RECONSTRUCTING LIVES	7
NEWS IN BRIEF	8

Preparing tomorrow's leaders

If IHL is to continue protecting victims of armed conflict, it must be taught to the young people who will go on to be the decision-makers of the future. In its continuing efforts to promote awareness of IHL among students, the ICRC in November 2002 staged the second Moot Court competition in Arusha, Tanzania, gathering nine teams of university students from Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Ethiopia and South Africa. Information Officer **Jessica Musila** watched them battle it out.

Older men declare war. But it is the youth that must fight and die. And it is the youth who must inherit the tribulation, the sorrow and the triumphs that are the aftermath of war." The words of Herbert Hoover, the 31st President of the United States, are sadly as true today as they were when they were spoken in the early 1930s. Stories of atrocities committed both in international and civil wars appear almost daily in the media.

The Moot Court competition - won last year by Nairobi University's Faculty of Law - was conceived by the ICRC as a means of teaching young people in Africa that IHL, if properly implemented, imposes limits of behaviour on combatants with the ultimate aim of putting an end to these all too familiar abuses.

The 27 students, all from universities that teach IHL as part of their Sociology, Law and International Relations curricula, seemed nervous on arrival, but they quickly entered into the spirit of the event.

They first went through a five-day training by experts from the ICRC and the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR) on the different facets of IHL and International Law. The nine teams then launched into the two-day competition itself.

Complex conflicts

The competition was based on a case study developed around Western Bellitia, a fictitious region comprising five countries involved in conflict. The scenario closely resembled many real conflicts around the world today: governments facing rebel forces supported by a neighbouring country, use of media propaganda during war, intervention of regional military forces and regional peace-making initiatives.

"The context of the unfolding war is designed to test the students' understanding of IHL and the humanitarian dimensions

of armed conflict," said Vincent Bernard, the ICRC's Regional Communication Delegate and mastermind of the Moot Court.

The preliminary session of the competition required the contestants to act as ICRC delegates who had visited a prison run by forces of Bamboostan Inbole, one of the five countries in Western Bellitia. Having been loaded with information on everything from the prison lay-out to ICRC

the ICRC report, the military command also went on to present a list of demands including a supply of teargas! The contestants needed to be versatile and adaptable to the behaviour of the officers without compromising their neutrality and access to the prisoners of war.

Handling war crimes

In the second preliminary, the students acted as legal advisors from Parabulem, another of the warring countries, belonging to the Permanent Mission to the OPLB - the regional peace keeping body. This time they were required to convince an OPLB jury of the need to adopt a resolution on the conflict in Bamboostan Inbole, by defining the nature of the conflict in legal terms and outlining the treaties under consideration. In addition, they had to explain how the war crimes were to be handled.

The finals pitted the Nairobi University Faculty of Law team against a South African team of students from both Cape Town and Natal universities. Before Judge Winston C. Mantunzima Magutu of the ICTR and a jury acting as the OPLB committee for Peace and Security, the students presented arguments about whether the committee was justified in sending a peace keeping force to deal with the

conflict.

For the second year running the Moot Court finals were held in one of the ICTR courtrooms and after about two hours of intense debate, the Nairobi University Law Faculty team again won the top prize of book vouchers worth nearly \$200.

But both winners and losers were thrilled by the experience. "It gave us a chance to espouse the ideals of IHL and brought the humanity in us to the fore in defending the rights of the victims," beamed Nairobi University's Godfrey Musila.



Three members of the winning team in the ICTR court room

Photo: ICRC

neutrality, the students were given three hours to prepare for a meeting with the army 'high command', in this instance a jury played by ICRC and ICTR staff.

The students had to go into the meeting, just like ICRC delegates would in the field, and make recommendations to the authorities on conditions in the prison that required improvement, highlighting any abuses of IHL that they had noticed.

The participants got more than they bargained for when the senior military officers not only offered them vodka but also kept interrupting the meeting with loud praises to their god-king. After listening to

Humanitarians and the law

Last September, the ICRC held its first ever course on IHL for members of non-governmental organisations. Representatives of 25 NGOs and UN departments attended the course in Nyeri, in the beautiful highlands north of Nairobi. The week of lectures and discussion - which included presentations from the International Criminal Tribunals for Rwanda and Yugoslavia - saw vigorous debate on the significance of IHL. Bulletin asked two of the participants and one of the facilitators for their views of the experience.

Fergus Drake, Programme Director, Tearfund Southern Sudan: "The subject of International Humanitarian Law (IHL) and its role within the humanitarian aid community is often talked about but little understood. How can the Geneva Conventions be successfully used in the myriad of internal chronic complex emergencies raging across the world? When and how should an agency use IHL? Do refugees have special protections and internally displaced people none? In light of September 11, is IHL taking second place to the war on terrorism?"

Due to the complexity of these questions, it was with some trepidation that the participants from around East Africa arrived for the course. The course itself was broken down between sessions from ICRC staff, role plays, videos, outside speakers, case studies and a wealth of literature. The quality of the speakers and the originality with which a difficult subject was conveyed all added immensely to the understanding of the participants of IHL and its relevance to ongoing humanitarian operations.

In particular insights from lawyers at the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda and the Hague as well as practical examples of IHL from the Kenyan Armed Forces were particularly stimulating. The relative seniority of participants from a wide range of UN and NGO organisations also encouraged lively debate with respect to differences between agency mandates and the reality of co-ordination on the ground.

ICRC must be congratulated in producing a stimulating course which will equip personnel across the humanitarian aid spectrum with a solid foundation in IHL to be used in the field. There can be little doubt of the importance of IHL as a benchmark to which



Participants of the Nyeri IHL course

Photo: ICRC

we can hold ourselves and others to account in the increasingly complex environments we find ourselves operating in.

Eleanor Monbiot, Programs Coordinator, World Vision International, Africa Relief Office: "Having had virtually no previous experience of the law, or at least none that I am prepared to admit to, I was somewhat concerned that the IHL course would be dry, technical and unrelated to the field. Luckily I was proved wrong. ICRC clearly has a plethora of highly skilled lectures to call upon and they used them to make the course diverse and interesting. The course mixed the technical with the practical and it was so refreshing to be able to attend an academic course which left plenty of time to fully explore the argument, and get acquainted with the detail.

The inclusion of the ICTR and ICTY brought a sense of field reality to the week, but the course would have benefited from more discussion on protection mechanisms in the field, and to be broadened to look at the mandates of the other organizations present, with an examination on how we can work in co-ordination to ensure the upholding of international Humanitarian Law.

All in all it was a superb week in which I felt I learnt a great deal that can be used in my work. I encourage ICRC to look to expand these courses, while including more voices from the field.

Jamie Williamson, Legal Officer, ICTR Appeals Chamber, The Hague: "The Nyeri course provided an ideal forum for dynamic exchanges on issues unique to the field of international humanitarian law. The participants brought with them an understanding of both IHL and of the realities of its application in numerous past and on-going situations. As

such, there was no hesitation in questioning and pushing further concepts of IHL.

As a practitioner in this field of law, it was genuinely refreshing to be able to discuss at length with the participants the modes of repression for violations of IHL and to assess the work of international jurisdictions such as the ad hoc International Criminal Tribunals for Rwanda and the former Yugoslavia and the newly created permanent International Criminal Court (ICC).

Too often the law is seen as operating in a vacuum, to be sterile. However, the Nyeri seminar moved the debate away from legal intricacies of IHL to focus on its very purpose, that of affording protection to many in time of war, and to allow for an assessment of the means by which the respect for IHL can be guaranteed. Can IHL be effectively applied during conflicts, by what means can the parties to armed conflicts be held accountable for transgressions of IHL, can international jurisdictions bring the necessary relief to victims, is justice preferable to reconciliation, is repression a viable form of deterrence? These and many other questions formed the basis of much of the constructive debate at Nyeri, and brought to light both the many merits and potential frailties of IHL.

Throughout, the organisers injected boundless energy and continued initiative into all aspects of the course, and the structure of the program made for a natural and logical progression in the presentation of the subject matter. In addition, the continued enthusiasm of the participants over the arduous week, and their versatility and vitality during the role-playing exercises, made for a thoroughly enjoyable course.

The second IHL course for Humanitarian Workers and Policy makers will be held in Arusha, Tanzania from 23 - 28 February 2003 (see News in Brief, p8).

Terror in Paradise

On Thursday November 28, terrorism once again hit Kenya. A car bomb explosion rocked the Paradise Hotel in Kikambala in Kenya's Coast Province north of Mombasa, bringing death and destruction of property worth millions of shillings. A total of 13 people were confirmed dead after the attack. They included ten Kenyans, most of them members of a traditional dancing troop welcoming tourists, and three Israeli nationals. Two other Kenyans died later in hospital. The Kenya Red Cross Society's *Caroline Kahuho* talked to families of the victims struggling to cope with the loss of their loved ones.

The powerful explosion, reminiscent of the 1998 terrorist bombing in Nairobi, ripped the hotel building apart and started a raging fire. Aside from those killed, more than 80 people were injured.

a long time, particularly for the families of those who lost breadwinners. A needs assessment carried out by the Kenya Red Cross identified the major areas of intervention, which include food, clothing and school fees.

could be taken to his home in Kano in Western Province for burial. "We had no money to transport his body home... according to the Luo tradition, he has to be buried in his ancestral home. This was an extra expense that we could not have the funds for." But financial difficulties are not the only problem.

"My sister is epileptic, and since the death of her husband, she has been getting fits more often especially when she begins talking about (him)," Naifa said.

Nevertheless, Naifa is grateful to the Kenya Red Cross for coming to the aid of Wilfred's family with donations of wheat flour, cooking fat, soap, and rice. "I also want to appeal to well-wishers out there to help my sister find a job, so that she can be able to feed and take care of her five children."

Family struggle

The family of Wewa Mutisya, also killed in the attack tells a similar sad story. Wewa, who was 34 and

worked in the hotel's restaurant, was not killed instantly by the explosion and spent two weeks in an Intensive Care Unit (ICU) before succumbing to his injuries. He is survived by his pregnant wife Marion, who has been left severely traumatised by his death.

"Since his death, she does not seem to want to do anything," Margaret said. "She had been running a small stall...selling grains and second hand clothes. With the death of her husband..., who was her sole financial support, we fear that her business might collapse," she said.

As in the 1998 terrorist bombing in Nairobi, those hardest hit by the terrorist attack were Kenyans who were already struggling to survive. The tragic demise of their loved ones and breadwinners dealt a double tragedy to those left behind. As the families struggle to adjust with the sudden change in their lives, rehabilitation is far from over.



Kenya Red Cross volunteers

Photo: KRCS

Kenya Red Cross personnel and volunteers rushed to the scene to assist in rescue and recovery efforts. The team consisted of 10 staff members from Mombasa branch and volunteers from Mombasa, Malindi and Kwale branches. Equipped with First Aid kits, stretchers, blankets, and water, the team provided First Aid to the injured, ferrying them to hospital, and retrieved the bodies of the dead. Tracing officers were also at the site helping to find those who had been reported missing. The ICRC provided two land-cruisers and body bags.

A team of 25 Kenya Red Cross counsellors was also mobilized to give psychological support to those who survived the attack. The team, led by Hassan Musa from Mombasa branch, carried out one-to-one counselling sessions. The injured were admitted in various hospitals in Mombasa.

The rescue operation may be over, but recovery from the atrocity will take

Dama Karisa, 40, lost her husband, Safari Yaa, who was the leader of the traditional dancing troop. Dama, who is expecting her ninth child, is currently living with 5 of her 8 children, and faces a difficult life ahead.

Tragic losses

The story is the same for Musida Mohammed, who lost her husband Wilfred Owour in the attack. Wilfred was a taxi driver who on that tragic day had gone to collect money owed to him by a client at the hotel.

"Wilfred was the sole breadwinner of the family," said Musida's sister, Naifa Mohammed. "Musida is unemployed. She now has to cater for their five children on her own. This is more difficult, because the children are very young, the eldest being only 7 years old," she said.

Wilfred's body lay in Pandya Hospital mortuary until January 9 before it

Changing the Guard



Abbas Gullet

In January, the Kenya Red Cross Society said goodbye to Secretary General Abbas Gullet, who left after two years in the top job. Caroline Kahuho looks back at an extraordinary period of revival in the life of the Society, and looks forward to the tenure of Abbas' replacement, Mary Wamaitha Kuria.

In the early 1980s, the Kenya Red Cross Society was one of the most respected National Societies in Africa. However, by the late 1990s, corruption, mismanagement and bad governance plagued the Society. The Society was operating on a depressing Ksh 21 million debt, staff salaries were not paid on time, and administration costs could not even be met. Donors had pulled out, leaving it on the verge of total collapse. A revival was desperately needed.

In a concerted effort to get the Society back on its feet, the ICRC agreed to fund more than 65% of the Society's programs, and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) sent Abbas Gullet to take over as secretary general.

Back to surplus

On a two-year assignment, Abbas quickly set about reviving the ailing Society, creating four new core departments - finance and administration; disaster preparedness and response; organizational

development; and health and social services. The restructuring followed by intense lobbying and cajoling brought back donors, and within a short time, the Society's debt was reduced drastically to Ksh 3 million.

Abbas instituted transparency and accountability as key aspects of the Society's operations, and by the end of his assignment, the Society's account had even posted a surplus. Abbas, however, is quick to admit that the task was often uphill.

"When I was sent here, the Society was at its lowest, because it had been mismanaged and donors had withdrawn because of lack of faith in it," he says. "Retrenching members of staff in order to maintain a small staff was not easy, especially in Kenya's harsh economic environment."

Abbas began his career in the Red Cross in 1985, when he joined the Society as a National Youth Officer. During his tenure, he organized several national and international youth camps and introduced national first aid competitions, which have become a core event in the Society's calendar. He left the Society in 1991, and joined the IFRC as a Youth Officer, rising through the ranks to become Head of Delegation (HOD) in Malawi in 1995, when the Federation was distributing food and non-food items to more than 1 million refugees from Mozambique. Between 1994 and 1995, he was based in Geneva as head of the Youth Department. Prior to his secondment to the Kenya Red Cross, Abbas worked as Head of Regional delegation for the Pacific region, covering 14 countries.

"I want the Kenya Red Cross Society to be the envy of all humanitarian organizations operating in Kenya."

Mary Kuria

He has now taken up a position as Director for Disaster Management Coordination for IFRC operations worldwide based in Geneva, Switzerland.

The Society is now not only in a good financial position, but is also a credible organization well on its way to becoming the country's leading relief organization. To maintain this position, the Kenya Red Cross will need to continue working hard and diligently, under the leadership of Abbas' replacement, Mary Wamaitha Kuria, who was previously Director of Finance and administration. Mary is quick to concede that maintaining the standards set by Abbas will not be easy.

"Our visibility and image has improved. We respond quickly to disasters, and we have created high expectations from the public. Our biggest challenge now is liv-

ing up to this standard," Mary says.

"Abbas was a very efficient leader, and I learnt a lot from him. However, there can never be two of the same person! Every manager his or her own management style and method. With continued support from staff members, I intend to retain the pace."

Ambitious vision

A holder of an MA in Strategic Management and a BA in Economics and Anthropology, Mary began her career at the Kenya Women's Finance Trust. She then moved on to Proctor and Gamble, MSF-Belgium, the Agency for Cooperation and Research in Development (ACORD) then to the Department for International Development (DFID), before joining the Kenya Red Cross Society in 2001.



Mary Kuria

Mary insists that the Society still has to pull together to stay on top. "We will need commitment from the staff members. Everyone should realize that they can make a difference in the Society."

Mary's vision for the Society is certainly ambitious.

"I want the Kenya Red Cross Society to be the envy of all humanitarian organizations operating in Kenya, in terms of programs, partnerships, and relationships between staff and volunteers," she says.

Boosting staff morale is also a key part in the restructuring process, and revised staff salaries are now market driven to reflect what is expected of the employees. "We are now a results oriented organization," Mary says.

Only time can tell whether the Kenya Red Cross will be able to maintain the high standards that have been set. However, judging from the number of achievements that the Society continues to record, and the confidence the Kenyan public has built around it, the sky is the limit for the Kenya Red Cross Society.

Delivering the goods

Whatever the recent challenges to IHL, the ICRC's mandate to provide assistance to those affected by conflict remains unchanged. The Logistics Centre in Nairobi, the ICRC's biggest such facility in the world, dispatches food and medicines along with everything from cooking pots to blankets across sub-Saharan Africa and beyond. Regional Information Delegate **Mark Snelling** visited the massive depot along the Mombasa road.

Joseph Muturi and Peter Musili are having a busy day. The two ICRC drivers are making final preparations before leaving in a convoy of five trucks carrying palm-oil and tents to Awash in southern Ethiopia, a gruelling 16-day drive. Not only do they have to ensure that all their documentation is in order, they also have to be present during loading to verify that the goods are all there. They will be responsible for them.

"This is the busiest we've been since Rwanda in 1994," says Joseph, who along with Peter has driven hundreds of thousands of kilometres for the ICRC. "But we are on duty, so we have to enjoy," he smiles.

Amid the good humour, Logistics is facing daunting challenges. The unfolding drought crisis in Ethiopia along with preparations for a looming war in Iraq have placed huge demands on the Centre's 200-strong staff.

As it became clear last year that failed rains in Ethiopia were going to leave the population catastrophically short of food (the country's food deficit for 2002 was estimated at 3.8 million tonnes), the ICRC joined a mobilisation of international aid agencies, launching an emergency distribution in the northeastern Afar region in September. Logistics swung into action, mobilising an emergency stock of 2000 tonnes of maize, 400 tonnes of split peas, and 300 tonnes of cooking oil, all sent up by road.

"But the more they worked, the more they realised there was a need for more," says John Wert, head of the Logistics Centre. "When you start feeding people, it's difficult to stop," says the Canadian, who has worked with the ICRC around the world since 1994.

The decision to extend the program to deliver an astonishing 50,000 tonnes of



Sacks of food awaiting shipment

Photos: ICRC

food, seeds and so-called non-food items (such as blankets and soap) was taken in early December. But an unexpected challenge was yet to come. "We didn't get the final green light until two days before Christmas," says John, explaining that not only was much of the country already on holiday, but Kenya's elections were only four days away. "It was quite difficult to contact the suppliers," he says.

And this was no small order. Headquarters

\$750,000 - needed to go by sea. So the race was also on to complete the order in time for the sailing of the container vessel on January 5 from Mombasa to Djibouti, there would not be another until the 17th.

They made the sailing and two more are scheduled for February and March.

Apart from Ethiopia, Logistics supplies another 10 countries in the region, from Sudan in the north to the south of the Democratic Republic of Congo and west to Congo/Brazzaville. On an ad-hoc basis, Nairobi is also called upon to support ICRC operations far further afield. The Centre was active during the war in Afghanistan, sending goods to Kuwait, Iran, and Baghdad itself. When war clouds began gathering again over the Middle East last year, the Centre sent five trailers, thousands of blankets and water equipment to the region. Medical logistics also sent 10 war-wounded kits, 17 tonnes of equipment and supplies that can be used to treat up to 1,000 hospitalised combatants.

The vast operation is a triumph of teamwork and cooperation, gathering a virtual United Nations of different nationalities. Kenyan staff work side by side with an expatriate team drawn from Switzerland, Italy, Canada, Britain, Finland and the Philippines. "It's a very cosmopolitan atmosphere," says head of the purchasing unit, Guiseppe Coniglione, whose job it is to write the not inconsiderable cheques.

Back at the drivers' office, Peter and Joseph are ready to go. Once in Ethiopia, they and 18 other Kenyan drivers will stay for three months to help with the distributions. They know it is tough, but they also know it is worth it. "When you get to the villages (for the distribution), the children are very happy," says Peter.

ICRC LOGISTICS NAIROBI

Monthly average transported by road: 1,900 tonnes

Annual distance driven by road: 1.8 million kms

Monthly average purchase: \$1 million

Storage capacity: 8,814 square metres

Stock value: \$4.7 million

Vehicles: 50 trucks, 50 light vehicles (maintained by 17 mechanics)

ters in Geneva had decided that Nairobi would purchase 1,050 tonnes of palm-oil alone, so a tender needed to go out to three local suppliers before a purchase could be made. Having dispatched the earlier supplies by road, the larger order - worth some

New political era dawns in Kenya

On December 27, Kenyans ushered in a new government after 40 years of rule by the Kenya African National Union (KANU). The National Rainbow Coalition (Narc) won the majority of seats in Parliament and close to 60 percent of the presidential votes. Most of the major figures in the previous government lost their seats, among them some 14 cabinet ministers.

The new President, Emilio Mwai Kibaki was sworn in on December 30 in a celebration reminiscent of the country's independence celebrations of 1963. Narc's victory hinged on an ambitious list of promises aimed at revitalising the economy and tackling corruption and poverty.

Prior to the elections, the ICRC held extensive consultations with diplomats,



Photo: Edward Parsons / Phox Photography

security officials and other humanitarian organisations based in Nairobi, and a detailed contingency plan was prepared covering both the security of staff

as well as support to the Kenya Red Cross Society (KRCS) in the event of poll violence.

But despite sporadic incidents in the run-up to the polls and various allegations of attempted rigging, the final vote was peaceful. KRCS attended to a total of only 36 cases on the day itself, most of them minor injuries.

Monitoring teams from the European Union and the Commonwealth gave the elections a clean bill of health saying the outcome was a true reflection of the will of Kenyans.

For the ICRC, a new government has meant new counterparts at every level, from cabinet ministers down to civil servants. Meetings are now planned with newly elected officials to explain the ICRC's mandate, forge relationships, and continue the excellent level of co-operation that the ICRC has always enjoyed with the Kenyan government.

Reconstructing Lives

Following ethnic clashes that broke out in Tana River district in March 2001, the ICRC collaborated with the Kenya Red Cross in distributing food to the displaced. The assistance, distributed over 10 months, provided vital relief to the district. However, since March 2002 most of the displaced have started finding their way home to re-establish their lives. To help them do this, the Swedish Red Cross launched a water and habitat project and the German Red Cross implemented an economic security programme, both of which have begun to bear fruit. "The economic security programme seeks to support the Pokomo, Orma and Wardey communities which were affected by the clashes in their region and floods during the the March to May 2002 rainy season," says Andrea Heath, the German Red Cross programme manager.

Seed and tools were distributed to the agro-pastoralists and farmers in Garsen, Kipini and Galole divisions in September. The distribution was implemented through a food-for-work strategy that requires the farmers to cultivate at least one-hectare of land before they can receive the relief items.

Using the same strategy the Orma and Wardey, who are mainly pastoralists, were mobilised to rehabilitate the water pans that are used by the livestock. "This is expected to help to limit the migration of the pastoralists to the agricultural areas of the community,"

explained Janet Angelei, the Regional Food Economist. The programme also hopes to help the community rehabilitate or build access roads to the marginalised area of Kipini.

The complementary water and habitat project carried out by the Swedish Red Cross seeks to rehabilitate water pans in the hinterland for the pastoralist communities and sink shallow wells in the agricultural region for the farmers. "By January 2003, 40 shallow wells had been sunk and two water pans rehabilitated," according to Eric Pleijel, who is in charge of the project.

In a bid to improve the living the conditions of the population in the area, the

project has also built three new classrooms at the Tarasaa primary school that is situated in the farming region. Currently, construction of a dormitory at Asa primary school to cater for the children from the largely pastoralist community is in progress.

A large emphasis has been given to supporting the repair of burnt houses and schools. "Addressing the needs of both the agricultural and the pastoralist communities will go a long way in easing the tensions between the communities," said Jean Vergain, the Regional Water and Habitat specialist.



Aid distribution in Tana river

Photo: ICRC



Head of Regional Delegation Vincent Nicod (centre) looks on as ICRC Water and Habitat specialist Jean Vergain (right) opens one of the rehabilitated schools in the Kerio Valley

Photo: ICRC

Family reunions

On November 13 and 15, 2002, 18 unaccompanied minors aged between 2 and 17 years, living in the refugee camps in the Western Corridor of Tanzania were reunited with their families. Six were reunited with their families in different areas of Rwanda, 6 in the South Kivu region in DR Congo and 6 in Burundi. Then on January 20, 2003, three unaccompanied minors aged between 11 and 15 were reunited with their father in Kisangani. The three siblings had been staying with a foster family in Nairobi for the last 4 years. All the reunions were coordinated by the ICRC Tracing Department in Nairobi.

Second NGO course on IHL

Following the success of the first ever course on IHL for members of non-governmental organizations in Nyeri in September, the ICRC will be holding a second course in Arusha, Tanzania from 23 - 28 February 2003. This course is designed to acquaint participants with the international rules, principles and instruments applicable in times of armed con-

flicts. The course gives the participants a practical knowledge of IHL, applicable in their humanitarian activities in the field or in their decision making process. It is specifically targeted at professionals working for humanitarian organizations, diplomatic missions or the media and other related fields.

Kerio Valley completed

In September, the ICRC inaugurated 16 schools in the Kerio Valley that had been rehabilitated following clashes between the Pokot and Marakwet communities. The inauguration ceremony signaled the end of ICRC's activities in the valley launched in 1999. The programme, implemented in cooperation with the American Red Cross, also involved the digging of more than 70 wells, the building of 10 rainwater tanks, as well as the construction of 65 kms of roads.

Laikipia project closes

Forty-eight boreholes were sunk as part of the Swedish Red Cross water and habitat project started in 1999 in Laikipia district in Rift Valley province of Kenya.

The boreholes were sunk in three divisions of the district: Mukogodo, Ol-Moran and Ngarua. The project was implemented in three phases which also saw the construction of five dams and a rockpan in the arid Ol-Moran division which has a largely pastoralist community.

Djibouti detention

The ICRC continued its visits to Gabode prison in Djibouti. In order to support the authorities in their quest to maintain minimal hygienic conditions the ICRC will distribute 12 wheelbarrows, 12 rakes, 10 shovels and 10 pick-axes. Furthermore as the beginning of the year is considered to be the cold season where nights become chilly, 350 blankets will be delivered as well.

Workshop for Kenyan Police and Security Forces

The ICRC organized a training of trainer workshop on International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights (IHL/HR) for the Kenya Police and Security Forces from 11 to 15 November 2002. Mr. Erling Melkjorsen, ICRC Police and Security Forces regional delegate based in Pretoria, South Africa facilitated the workshop. The IHL/HR workshop was attended by 19 Police officers from the Kenya Police GSU division, National Security Intelligence Service, Criminal Investigations Department and one officer from the Djibouti Police Force.

Students visit the ICRC

On 31 January 2003, the ICRC Nairobi Regional Delegation and Logistics Centre played host to 51 students studying International Relations and Journalism at the United States International University - Africa. The students began their tour at the delegation where they listened to presentations on the history, mandate and humanitarian activities of the ICRC and an introduction to International Humanitarian Law. The students later toured the warehouses, workshop and dispatch at the Logistics Centre off Mombasa Road.



BULLETIN

Address: ICRC Nairobi Regional Delegation, Dennis Pritt Rd., PO Box 73226, Nairobi, Kenya: Tel: 254 2 2723 963, 2713 367, 351 374; Fax: 254 2 2715 598;

ICRC Dar es salaam, Ali Hassan Mwinyi & Ruhinde Road, Plot No. 87, PO Box 23431, Dar es salaam, Tanzania; Tel: 255 22 2 667 226, 668 552; Fax: 225 22 2 667 797.

Email: nairobi.nai@icrc.org / dar_es_salaam.dar@icrc.org

Email: www.icrc.org

Director of Publication: Vincent Nicod, Head of Regional Delegation

Editor: Mark Snelling, Regional Information Delegate. **Graphic Design:** Njambi Muigai

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 war and internal violence and to provide them with assistance. It also endeavours to prevent suffering by promoting and strengthening humanitarian principles. Established in 1863, the ICRC is at the origin of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement of which it co-ordinates the international relief activities in situation of conflict.

ICRC Bulletin is distributed in Kenya, Tanzania and Djibouti