



NEWSLETTER

ICRC - SUMMER 2014

RED CROSS: A UNIQUE MANDATE

SALUTING THE RESILIENCE OF THE HUMAN SPIRIT



Our work, at the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), takes us onto battlefields, into prisons, to floods, cyclones, earthquakes, and to emergency camps where we witness the suffering of human beings. And yet, it is in these same places that we witness as well the extraordinary and heroic acts of individuals — a soldier who risks his life to evacuate a child; a volunteer who puts on her mask and returns to the rubble to collect another dead body; a prisoner who nurses a fellow inmate; a nurse who refuses to leave a hospital that is being shelled, a surgeon who saves a life in the middle of a warzone, a volunteer who consoles a mother who has lost her child. As on every World Red Cross Day, this year, too, the Red Cross Red

Crescent Movement joined hands in paying tribute to the resilience of the human spirit. It is this spirit of humanity which binds us together and is a core principle guiding and, indeed, driving the Red Cross and Red Crescent movement.

We live in a world that's facing an increase in the frequency and intensity of natural disasters and in the complexity of conflicts and their effect on communities and countries. And these two trends, unfortunately, overlap in many parts of the world. Hence, humanitarian organizations, too, are likely to be increasingly faced with situations where populations are under different layers of pressure — be it demographic or economic pressure, pressure from natural and technological disasters or climate change, over time weakening the capacity of these populations to cope with the changes and leaving them even more vulnerable.

Several new actors have joined the field of humanitarian action. What is at stake for us, then, is the ability to deliver a humanitarian response that respects the fundamental principles of impartiality, neutrality, and independence. These principles are of great importance to us, as at their very core is our ability to gain the widest possible

acceptance by all stakeholders, and, thereby, to gain safe access (and proximity) to populations in need of protection and assistance.

Today, we look back at a journey of 150 years from one man's dream and perseverance to a global community of over 17 million volunteers, with a Red Cross or Red Crescent presence in almost every community in the world. Our strength lies in our hugely diverse and committed staff and volunteers who continue to work in the midst of these extremely difficult situations. The sacrifices and dedication of the members of this movement over this long journey not only reminds us that the institution has always worked to adapt continuously to the changing realities confronting it, but also gives us the faith and conviction to continue to do so in future.

Mary Wertz
Head of the Regional Delegation
New Delhi

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ICRC

CELEBRATIONS

WORLD RED CROSS DAY: PEOPLE ACROSS THE GLOBE SHARE HOW WE HAVE TOUCHED THEIR LIVES

Every day, most of the seven billion people in the world are touched by the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement without even realizing it. Almost everyone — or someone they know — has donated blood or received a first aid tip or been visited by a volunteer, perhaps not knowing it was their local Red Cross or Red Crescent in action.

Annually, May 8, the birth anniversary of Henry Dunant, the founder of the International Red Cross Red Crescent Movement, is celebrated as World Red Cross Red Crescent Day to celebrate the power of community and people helping people, both in the spotlight during crises and behind-the-scenes in day-to-day life.

Since long before the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement came into existence, people have been drawn to help each other: out of compassion, kindness and hope. Today, the Movement, with more than 17 million volunteers and 80 million members, provides a space where people can mobilize, share their aspirations, and act on them together to respond to crises and inspire hope.

This year, in order to commemorate World Red Cross Day, the Movement invited people from all over the world to share their Red Cross stories. The New Delhi delegation joined the worldwide celebrations by organising a photo exhibition and a social gathering which was attended by diplomats, representatives of international organisations, Red Cross Movement partners, academicians, journalists and lawyers. Some retired officers of the Indian security forces, who had been taken prisoners of war (POW) during the India-Pakistan war of 1971, were also present at the event. Air Vice Marshal (Retd) Aditya Vikram Pethia, a Vir Chakra-awardee who attended the event, gifted Ms Mary Werntz, Head of New Delhi Regional Delegation, ICRC, his POW 'capture card', which he had saved from the time of the war, as a token of appreciation for the help rendered to him by the ICRC.

Capturing the spirit of the celebrations, Ms Mary Werntz, said that this is a day to pay tribute to the resilience of the human spirit. "As we stand here today we need to remind ourselves of the ongoing humanitarian crises in such places as the Central African Republic, the Philippines and Syria to name a few. This is a day to remember the power of an individual act of kindness, a spontaneous act of compassion, a voice of tolerance, an outstretched hand of helpfulness, of people giving instinctively. It is a day to honour a community's efforts to heal itself after a tragedy." She further added, "in the face of ongoing suffering,

state branches of the Indian Red Cross Society across the country also joined in to celebrate the spirit of humanity.

This World Red Cross Day was special as the Movement is celebrating more than 150 years of humanitarian action worldwide. The Red Cross Day is also seen as a moment to reinstate the promise to continue addressing the humanitarian needs of millions of people across the world.

The theme of the celebration this year is 'My Red Cross Red Crescent Story', through which the Movement is documenting stories of all those who have been touched



Prof Rahmat Mohammed, Secretary General, Asian-African Legal Consultative Organisation (left), Ms Mary Werntz, Delegation Head, ICRC New Delhi and Dr S P Agarwal, Secretary General, Indian Red Cross Society, at the World Red Cross Red Crescent Day celebrations organised by the ICRC and AALCO in New Delhi on 8 May 2014

let us draw inspiration from the many small acts of humanity in everyday life and in times of crisis."

A radio programme was also aired on All India Radio wherein people from different walks of life talked about the impact the Red Cross has had on their lives. The

by the Red Cross or Red Crescent in some way or the other, either as a volunteer or as a beneficiary. While many soul-stirring and inspiring stories of the Movement reached the ICRC worldwide, we share with you some of the Indian voices in this edition of the newsletter.

ALMOST EVERYONE HAS A RED CROSS STORY. WHAT'S YOURS?

Air Vice Marshal (Retd) Aditya Vikram Pethia



"For me, World Red Cross Day is my second birthday. It was on 8 May 1972 that I was brought back by the ICRC from Rawalpindi in Pakistan, where I was kept as a Prisoner of War (POW), to Palam, India. I am thankful to the ICRC for looking after me when I was an injured POW and for bringing me back to this country. After that, I settled down in India and started flying again. That's the story of my life and the story behind my second birthday!"



Dr M Ganapathy, Executive Director, Public Health Resource Society, New Delhi



"I believe the Red Cross touches almost everyone's life. Very early during my school life, I got introduced to the Junior Red Cross and the concept of blood banks. I learnt the importance of blood donation and how it saves lives. I think this is a very important thing that the Red Cross has been promoting."

P M Narayanan, Senior Producer (South Asia), German TV



"In 2006, I was working as a journalist for German TV and had gone to Trincomalee in Sri Lanka to report on the situation there. The Red Cross was an important partner in our work and helped us get to places where it was difficult to go. Another time, I was in Afghanistan covering the crisis of 27 Koreans having been taken hostage by the Taliban. At that time too, the ICRC was the only organisation that had access to the Taliban to negotiate the release of the hostages."



Share your Red Cross Story with family and friends!

#MyRedCross, icrcnewdelhi@gmail.com or at ifrc.tumblr.com Follow us on [twitter/ICRC_nd](https://twitter.com/ICRC_nd) and blogs.icrc.org/new-delhi

ANNOUNCEMENT

Attention! Print & Photo Journalists



Daniel Etter/ICRC

ANNUAL AWARDS 2014 BEST ARTICLE & PHOTOGRAPH ON A HUMANITARIAN SUBJECT

THEME : REPORTING ON THE FATE OF VICTIMS OF ARMED VIOLENCE

A competition organized by the Press Institute of India (PII), Chennai and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), New Delhi

FOR JOURNALISTS

1st Prize – INR 50,000
2nd Prize – INR 30,000
3rd Prize – INR 20,000

Violence shatters and destroys lives.
It spreads poverty and undermines development.

FOR PHOTOJOURNALISTS

1st Prize – INR 50,000
2nd Prize – INR 30,000
3rd Prize – INR 20,000



For details and competition rules please contact :
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or write to editorpiirind@gmail.com
or log on to blogs.icrc.org/new-nelhi/category/announcements/



ICRC

SNAPSHOT

2013 IN REVIEW: ICRC NEW DELHI MAINTAINED ACTIVITIES TO MEET HUMANITARIAN NEEDS

Throughout the year, the situation in many of the diverse contexts in which the ICRC worked starkly illustrated the complexity of the humanitarian landscape — the often disastrous human cost of violence, compounded by natural disasters and underlying socio-economic crises, and the difficulties faced by humanitarian organizations in addressing the multiple needs of the people affected. Overcoming these challenges, the ICRC globally continued its activities.

In India, the Regional Delegation in New Delhi maintained its activities in 2013 as per its mandate. Of the numerous activities undertaken to meet humanitarian needs, the following actions reflect the biggest highlights of the New Delhi delegation from the year gone by:

- While detainees held in relation to the situation in Jammu and Kashmir, India, continued to receive ICRC visits, prison and health authorities there discussed steps on improving healthcare for inmates
- A limited number of violence-affected communities in Chhattisgarh, India, benefited from ICRC healthcare services and water improvement projects, which ended in June 2013 at the government's request
- Various academic and legal institutions and other organizations worked with the

ICRC to raise awareness of humanitarian issues and International Humanitarian Law (IHL) among members of the civil society and government representatives throughout the region

- At a workshop co-organized by the Indian Armed Forces, senior military officers discussed the need to ensure unhindered delivery of healthcare services to violence-affected populations
- The Maldivian Red Crescent Society (MRCS), with volunteers trained in the Safer Access Framework and equipped with first-aid kits, stood ready to provide medical assistance during tensions in the run-up to the election in 2013
- In the flood-affected state of Uttarakhand, the Indian Red Cross Society (IRCS) used 1,500 ICRC-donated body bags to collect and identify human remains
- Over 680 refugees in India, lacking the necessary identification papers, were resettled in third countries using travel documents issued by the ICRC in coordination with UNHCR
- Over 100 detainees in India maintained contact with their relatives through ICRC-facilitated family visits. In Bhutan, 20 inmates were visited by relatives from refugee camps in Nepal
- During the Regional Senior Editors Conference co-organized by Jamia Milia

TOP SEVEN ICRC OPERATIONS WORLDWIDE



A snapshot of the top seven operations of the ICRC in 2013:

Syria: Ensured clean water was available for 17 million people

Afghanistan: Assisted more than 94,000 patients in seven physical rehabilitation centres

Mali: Distributed nearly 28,000 tonnes of food to over 885,600 people

Democratic Republic of the Congo: Helped more than 1,000 children rejoin their families in the Democratic Republic of the Congo or abroad

Somalia: Distributed emergency food rations among 260,000 people and helped 2,600 people receive vocational training

Iraq: Visited almost 40,000 people held in over 70 places of detention in Iraq

South Sudan: Performed operations on around 1,400 patients in eight medical facilities across the country

Islamia University, over 20 senior editors from South and Southeast Asia shared best practices, particularly on tackling the difficulties of reporting on conflict and violence

- Military officers enhanced their knowledge of IHL through ICRC dissemination sessions and over 1,400 paramilitary and police officers learnt more about basic human rights and international standards on the use of force and firearms.



The ICRC in cooperation with the Centre for Empowerment and Initiatives provided wheelchairs to persons with disabilities in Noida (UP) in Noida (UP)

AFGHAN WHEELCHAIR BASKETBALL TEAM FIRST TO PLAY TOURNEY ON FOREIGN SHORES



The Afghan players at a basketball practice session at the ICRC Orthopaedic Centre, Kabul

The month of May 2014, was a benchmark in the lives of a handful of young men from Afghanistan who comprise the national wheelchair basketball team. These men — who have been affected physically by disease, disaster or conflict and have been rehabilitated by the ICRC — had gone to Italy at the invitation of Italian sports club Briantea84 to play in a series of matches between 22-29 May.

The Afghan players, who are now back home after winning two of the nine matches they played in Italy, are still hung-over with the excitement of their visit to the foreign country and the headiness of having made history by being the first Afghan wheelchair basketball team to play abroad.

For them, the trip to Italy was a celebration of their victory over the odds life has faced them with. Each day was exhilarating. On landing in Italy, the Afghan team were met by a pack of journalists and photographers representing local and international media. They even swam in the sea for the first time.

They played against the Italian Under-22 National Team, and a select team made up of players from Italy's top professional division. And they won two matches out of the nine they played. The players who make up the national team are from different parts of Afghanistan, but they speak in one voice when they say how much it means to them to be ambassadors for their country and for disabled people.

The national basketball team, which was created in 2013 under the aegis of the Afghanistan Paralympic Committee, had been invited by Briantea84 of Cantù near



The Afghanistan Wheelchair Basketball team gathers together before the start of the match

Milan, the winner of the 2012-13 Italian League. The project is a cooperation between the Afghanistan Paralympic Committee and the ICRC, which has been instrumental in facilitating the players' training. Since 2010, wheelchair basketball players from the ICRC's orthopaedic centres in Mazar, Herat and Kabul in Afghanistan, together with players from Maimana, have been trained for some weeks every year by a US professional basketball coach, Jess Markt, himself in a wheelchair.

In India, too, the ICRC's Physical Rehabilitation Programme contributes to the social reintegration of people with disabilities into society by providing them with appropriate physical rehabilitation care. Partners of the ICRC working for disabled people have been empowered by the organisation to provide quality services including the development of sustainable resources. The ICRC's Physical Rehabilitation Programme is now being shaped to enhance the accessibility of disabled people to affordable treatment by utilizing appropriate technology. The ICRC implements projects through these activities as per the priority of the Department of Disability Affairs Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India.

HEAD OF ICRC REGIONAL DELEGATION VISITS THE MALDIVES

Ms Mary Werntz, ICRC's head of regional delegation for India, Bhutan and the Maldives, undertook a mission to Malé on 19-20 May 2014. Accompanied by Mr Lloyd Gillett, Regional Delegate to the Armed and Security Forces unit of the ICRC, and Mr Charles R Sabga, Regional Legal Adviser, ICRC, the delegation met with the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs, Attorney General, Chief of Staff of the Maldives National Defence Force,

Deputy Commissioner of Police and other state officials to discuss various institutional matters and explore opportunities for collaboration.

The ICRC's mission to Malé was coordinated by the MRCS. The President, Secretary General and staff of the MRCS held various meetings and internal collaboration exercises with the ICRC delegation visiting the Maldives. The dialogue was premised

upon a spirit of strong collaboration and cooperation between the ICRC and the MRCS.

As a follow-up to this mission, the ICRC, in collaboration with the MRCS, shall propose various training opportunities and perspective-sharing exercises on IHL and other international legal principles in the Maldives.

DEBATES AND DISCUSSION

THE FIFTH SOUTH ASIA INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW CONFERENCE ON 'SEXUAL VIOLENCE AND ARMED CONFLICT'

The Fifth South Asia Conference on IHL was held in collaboration with the Ministry of Law, Justice, Constituent Assembly and Parliamentary Affairs, Government of Nepal, from 8-10 April 2014 in Kathmandu, Nepal. The topic 'Sexual Violence and Armed Conflict', an issue perceived sensitively, was discussed in light of violence against women, children and men. The agenda was conceived and constructed in a manner to allow the event to serve as a forum for states, stakeholders, the ICRC and partner organizations to address the issue and also to foster progressive steps towards formulation and implementation of domestic legislation to curb sexual violence.

The conference was well received and widely covered in the local media. The Asian-African Legal Consultative Organisation (AALCO) participated as an observer and the conference was attended by representatives of Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Home Affairs, Defence, Law & Justice, Parliamentary Affairs and Women's



Former Attorney General of Nepal Mr Yubaraj Sangroula chairs the panel discussion. ICRC legal advisers Mr Jamie Williamson from Geneva (L) and Mr Charles Sabga from Delhi (R) were the panellists

Affairs from many South Asian countries. The event also featured well-known academicians and members of civil society. ICRC legal experts from South Asia and from Geneva contributed constructively to the conference in various capacities, including as panelists and as Chair of Agenda in the sessions. The event featured a talk show-style format that enabled optimum

utilisation of the forum and generated a spirited debate. It fortified the strong institutional relationship the ICRC shares with the Government of Nepal and also enhanced the prospects of strengthening existing institutional relationships with governments of other states that were represented at the conference.

IHL EXPERTS SHOW CONCERN ON NEW TECHNOLOGY AFFECTING MODERN BATTLEFIELD AT TWO-DAY WORKSHOP

The ICRC Regional Delegation for India, Bhutan and the Maldives and the Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization (AALCO) jointly organized a workshop on International Humanitarian Law (IHL) on 7 and 8 May 2014 at the AALCO Secretariat Headquarters in New Delhi. Since 2003, following the signing of a memorandum of understanding, the ICRC and AALCO have had a close collaboration and partnered in dissemination and promotion of IHL.

The two-day workshop welcomed over 100 participants, including members of several Diplomatic Missions of AALCO Member States and Observer States, representatives from various International Organizations, including the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, legal experts from various countries and various academicians and researchers. The workshop agenda focused on contemporary challenges relating to IHL, developments and changes in



Surinder Oberoi, Communications and Political Advisor, ICRC New Delhi interacts with the participants at the workshop

the nature of armed violence in the twenty-first century and the legal implications related thereto. Experts from legal, juridical and military backgrounds engaged workshop participants in lively dialogue and debate on new methods and means of warfare (such as the use of drones) and the direct participation of civilians in hostilities.

At the end of this event, several workshop participants acknowledged the value of this event in bringing together government representatives, International Organisations, Academics, students and civil society to discuss emerging issues in IHL and their resolution.

WORKSHOP DISCUSSES INNOVATIONS AND APPLICATIONS IN RURAL DRINKING WATER SUPPLY THROUGH SOLAR POWERED WATER PUMPING SYSTEMS

ICRC in partnership with the Institution of Public Health Engineers organized a two-day workshop on solar powered water pumping systems – innovations and applications in rural drinking water supply in New Delhi on 19 and 20 June.

Inaugurating the workshop Dr. Jitendra Singh, Union Minister of State for Science & Technology and Earth Sciences (Independent Charge), said, “The 21st century is going to be the century of solar energy as far as energy sources are concerned. We therefore need to have more India oriented research and application and should work hard to nurture this area of solar energy so that fruits are borne by next generations.”

The workshop was being attended by senior retired government officials, representatives from state governments, subject experts, research agencies and manufacturing companies who highlighted different



India's Minister of State for Science and Technology Dr Jitendra Singh speaking at the inaugural session

perspectives of designing solutions related to solar powered water pumping systems, while drawing experiences from different Indian states. While making an attempt to find a balance between opportunities,

innovations, gaps and resources, the workshop also aimed at generating concrete recommendations for opening up gateways for better and innovative applications of rural drinking water supply.

DISCUSSION ON IHL AND CHALLENGES OF CONTEMPORARY ARMED CONFLICTS IN SOUTH ASIA

The Centre for Joint Warfare Studies (CENJOWS) and the ICRC recently organized a panel discussion on Contemporary Perspectives on the Interplay between IHL and International Human Rights Law (IHRL). The panel discussion, held in New Delhi on 23 May, was aimed at stimulating a discussion on IHL issues in order to increase

awareness of IHL among the Indian armed and security forces. The panel also discussed the ICRC's role in promoting IHL.

The ICRC informed the audience that it seeks to bring to South Asia the ongoing global discussion on new technologies of warfare and whether they comply with

IHL and to facilitate dialogues on the topic between concerned actors.

Representatives of CENJOWS and serving officers from the Indian Armed Forces attended the activity. The chief guest at the event was Lt Gen (Retd) AS Kalkat, who has been the mentor of CENJOWS since its inception. The discussion was moderated by Rear Admiral (Retd) V S Chaudhari, NM and the topics were introduced by Air Commodore (Retd) T Chand.

Globally, the ICRC is calling upon the States to assess whether the new technologies they develop comply with IHL. While there can be no doubt that IHL applies to them, applying pre-existing legal rules to new technologies may raise the question of whether the rules are sufficiently clear in light of the new technologies' specific characteristics and foreseeable humanitarian impact.



(From left) Major General (Retd) K B Kapoor, Director, CENJOWS, and Lt Gen (Retd) AS Kalkat with Ms Mary Wertz, Head of ICRC Regional Delegation, on the sidelines of the panel discussion

OUTREACH



Connect with the ICRC on your favourite site

The ICRC is active on social media platforms like the blogosphere, Twitter (@ICRC_nd) and Facebook. Follow us and our activities by logging onto your favourite platform. Once connected, you can read stories from the field, find out who we are and who we help, ask questions and connect with like-minded users from around the world.



Facebook: Personal accounts and stories from the field. Share your thoughts and questions on the wall - <https://www.facebook.com/ICRC>



Twitter: Get the latest news from the ICRC. Please #ICRC your tweets - https://twitter.com/ICRC_nd



Youtube: Videos from the field that can be shared and embedded on your site <https://www.youtube.com/user/icrcfilms>

[icrcblog] **ICRC New Delhi Blog:** The New Delhi Blog focussing on India aims to create a space where those involved in humanitarian action and thinking can share and exchange their views and experiences. <http://blogs.icrc.org/new-delhi/>

JOURNAL

Inviting Contributions for the International Review of the Red Cross

Established in 1869, the International Review of the Red Cross is a quarterly journal published by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and Cambridge University Press. It is a forum for debate. The International Review of the Red Cross invites the submission of articles on subjects relating to international humanitarian law, humanitarian policy, or humanitarian action, provided the article has not been published, submitted, or accepted elsewhere. All manuscripts are submitted to an anonymous peer review process. The editorial team can therefore not guarantee publication of any submissions, be they solicited or spontaneous.



Where to submit: Manuscripts may be submitted directly by electronic mail (Word for Windows attachment) or as a hard copy and a diskette (Word for Windows)

Language: Articles may be submitted in Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian or Spanish. The Review will translate the selected articles in English

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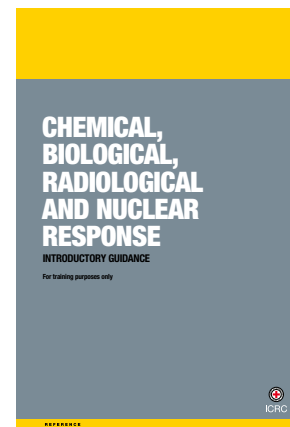
Thank you for reading our newsletter !

We would love to hear your thoughts and feedback.
Write to us at newdelhi@icrc.org

PUBLICATION

Chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear response: Introductory guidance

The ICRC is sometimes required to undertake activities in locations where there is the potential of intentional or unintentional release of chemical, biological, radiological



or nuclear (C B R N) agents. The objective of this document is to provide the reader with basic knowledge of CBRN agents and the

potential risks they pose in order to facilitate rational decision-making in the event of exposure.

Download: <http://www.icrc.org/eng/assets/files/publications/icrc-002-4175.pdf>

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