

ISSUE 1
- 2009 -

RCRC
Red Cross
Red Crescent

www.redcross.int

Our world. Your move.

- ◆ Destruction in Gaza
- ◆ After the hurricanes
- ◆ Horn of Africa



The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement is made up of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and the National Societies.

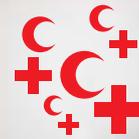


ICRC

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.



The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies works on the basis of the Fundamental Principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement to inspire, facilitate and promote all humanitarian activities carried out by its member National Societies to improve the situation of the most vulnerable people. Founded in 1919, the International Federation directs and coordinates international assistance of the Movement to victims of natural and technological disasters, to refugees and in health emergencies. It acts as the official representative of its member societies in the international field. It promotes cooperation between National Societies, and works to strengthen their capacity to carry out effective disaster preparedness, health and social programmes.



National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies embody the work and principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement in more than 186 countries. National Societies act as auxiliaries to the public authorities of their own countries in the humanitarian field and provide a range of services including disaster relief, health and social programmes. During wartime, National Societies assist the affected civilian population and support the army medical services where appropriate.

Together, all the above components of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement (the 'Movement') are guided by the same seven Fundamental Principles:

humanity, impartiality, neutrality, independence, voluntary service, unity and universality.

In the same manner, all Red Cross and Red Crescent activities have one central purpose:

to help without discrimination those who suffer and thus contribute to peace in the world.

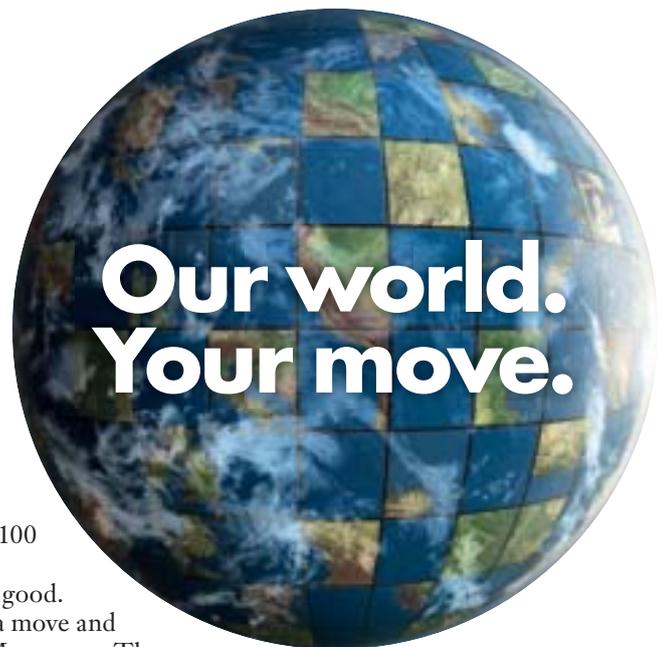
EDITORIAL

Some people around the world do amazing things for those most in need. Nuraini, a grandmother, used her pension to build a kindergarten in Indonesia. Abbas Sedri helps his community prepare for disaster in the Iranian city of Bam. Françoise Désirée seeks out people at risk of contracting HIV in Cameroon, while Jean Guerlain risks his own life to transport people to hospital in Haiti. These people, featured in this issue of *Red Cross Red Crescent* magazine, epitomize the spirit of the 2009 ‘Our world. Your move.’ campaign. Each of us can make a difference.

This global campaign honours key milestones in our history — the battle of Solferino, the birth of the International Federation and the adoption of the Geneva Conventions — and highlights those who inspired us to join together. Exactly 150 years ago, one man, Henry Dunant, had an idea that has grown into what is now the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, a global movement with nearly 100 million staff and volunteers.

We pause to consider the task ahead. And we choose to take action for good. The campaign is a clear call to action, urging people to reach out, make a move and better their world, in their own lives or in the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement. The message is that every person who heeds the call to act has the power to make a difference.

It can be tempting to turn away when we hear about our world today. Climate change, financial crisis, conflict and food insecurity — what can any individual do to make a difference? Yet there is a universal humanitarian spirit that prompts us to act for good. Through our actions, we show that we care.



Didier Revol
ICRC editor

Rosemarie North
International Federation editor

The second and final issue of *Red Cross Red Crescent* magazine for the year will be published in October, with a special focus on 150 years of Red Cross Red Crescent action. A new, dynamic and more frequently produced magazine will appear in time for 8 May 2010.

Articles, letters to the editors and other correspondence should be addressed to:

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Red Cross Red Crescent magazine can be found online at:
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Our world. Your move.

“All can, in one way or another, each in his own sphere and within his own limitations, do something to help the good work move forward.”

Henry Dunant
A Memory of Solferino

These words are as relevant today as when they were written in 1862 by Henry Dunant, a young Swiss businessman. On the battlefields of Solferino 150 years ago, Dunant took action and moved quickly to organize civilians to help thousands of unassisted wounded soldiers. It was there that Dunant had the inspiration that ultimately formed the world’s largest humanitarian organization — the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement with nearly 100 million staff and volunteers.

In 2009, the ‘Our world. Your move.’ campaign will commemorate the 150th anniversary of the battle of Solferino and the founding ideal of the spirit of volunteerism, the 90th anniversary of the founding of the International Fed-

**150 years
of Red Cross
Red Crescent
action**

ICRC



1859
The battle of Solferino

1862
A Memory of Solferino
written by Henry Dunant
is published

1863–64
The founding
of the ICRC



ICRC



eration and the 60th anniversary of the Geneva Conventions, which give protection to the most vulnerable people in times of war.

Through this global campaign, the ICRC, the International Federation and 186 Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies are honouring these milestones by highlighting the power of individuals to make a difference.

The 'Our world. Your move.' campaign is a call to action — urging people everywhere to address the humanitarian challenges facing their communities and beyond, to reach out, make a move and better their world.

The legacy of the battle of Solferino and Henry Dunant is that each person can make a difference in big and small

ways. Undoubtedly, the world is a messy place. We face unprecedented challenges, ranging from conflict and mass displacement to climate change, natural disasters and a global financial crisis. This campaign does not look away from the realities of a world in unrest but highlights a message of hope. Every person who engages in the call for a better world has the power to make a difference.

The ICRC will focus on armed conflict and situations of armed violence. Eight countries, considered to be today's 'Solferinos', will be featured in the campaign to illustrate pressing humanitarian issues related to armed conflict such as displacement, separated families and

the deliberate targeting of civilians. Featured contexts will be Afghanistan, Colombia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Georgia, Haiti, Lebanon, Liberia and the Philippines.

The International Federation will focus on a culture of prevention and what people are doing in communities around the world to help save lives by reducing the impact of disasters, climate change, food insecurity and public health emergencies.

In 2009, we are speaking with one voice and one message — each of us has the power to make the world a better place and, working together, we can "help the good work forward", just as Dunant did 150 years ago.

YOSHI SHIMIZU / INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION

1876–1878

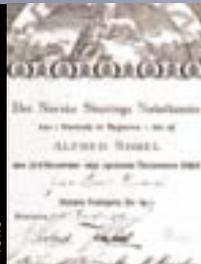
The red crescent emblem is used for the first time



ICRC

1901

Henry Dunant is awarded the first Nobel Peace Prize



ICRC

1914–1918

During the First World War, the Red Cross operates on a larger scale than ever before



ICRC



1859: the battle of Solferino



On 24 June, Henry Dunant, a citizen of Geneva, Switzerland, was travelling to meet Napoleon III on personal business. Near the small town of Solferino in northern Italy, Franco-Sardinian forces were clashing with Austrian troops during the War of Italian Unification.

Dunant arrived at the village of Castiglione later that evening, where more than 9,000 wounded soldiers had taken refuge in the main church, the Chiesa Maggiore. He was shocked to see thousands lying injured without any

care. He then mobilized local women and together they worked for several days and nights washing and dressing their wounds, and handing out tobacco, tea and fruit.

On his return to Geneva, Dunant could not forget what he had seen. In 1862, he published *A Memory of Solferino*. The book contains two major ideas:

- Set up relief committees in times of peace to train volunteers who would treat the wounded in times of war. This led to the creation of today's 186 National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.
- Draw up an international agreement to recognize and protect these committees, forming the basis of international humanitarian law.

1919: the League of Red Cross Societies is formed



The idea of pooling the skills and resources of Red Cross Societies for humanitarian assistance in peacetime goes back to Henry Dunant himself who wrote in 1862: "These Societies could also render great services, by their permanent existence, in times of epidemics, or of disasters such as floods, fires or other natural catastrophes."

Later, Henry Davison, president of the American Red Cross War Committee,

proposed forming a federation of the Red Cross Societies of the victorious nations to bring humanitarian assistance to the millions of people stricken by famine and disease in the aftermath of the First World War.

On 1 April 1919, more than 70 of the world's leading scientists, doctors and nurses gathered in France. They unanimously endorsed forming "a central organization which shall stimulate and co-ordinate the voluntary efforts of the peoples of the world through their respective Red Cross Societies" to bring essential medical and other aid to people in need.

On 5 May 1919 in Paris, the governors of the Red Cross Societies of Britain, France, Italy, Japan and the United States signed the Articles of Association to create the League of Red Cross Societies. The League sent its first operational mission to Poland in August 1919, to help a country devastated by hunger and typhus. In 1991, the League of Red Cross Societies was renamed the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (International Federation).

1949: the Geneva Conventions are further expanded and revised

1949 marks one of the most significant dates in the history of the Movement and a decisive breakthrough in the development of international humanitarian law. Experience during the Second World War made a major revision of international humanitarian law a priority after 1945.

The First Convention aims to protect the wounded and sick in armed forces in the field; it represents the fourth version of the Geneva Convention on wounded and sick after those adopted in 1864, 1906 and 1929. The Second Convention aims to protect the wounded, sick and shipwrecked members of armed forces at sea, a revision and development of the 1906 Geneva Convention and 1907 Hague Convention. The Third Convention aims to protect prisoners of war, a revision and development of the 1907 Hague Regulations and 1929 Geneva Convention relative to the protection of prisoners of war. The Fourth Convention aims to protect civilians. In addition, the four Conventions contain a common article relating to the protection of victims of non-international armed conflicts.

Adopted on 8 June 1977, Protocols I and II are international treaties that supplement the Geneva Conventions of 1949. They significantly improve the legal protection of victims of armed conflicts, and — for the first time — lay down detailed humanitarian rules that apply in non international armed conflict. In 2005, a third Additional Protocol established an additional emblem, the red crystal, having the same status as the existing red cross and red crescent emblems.



1919

The League of Red Cross Societies, known since 1991 as the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, is formed



1929

Geneva Conventions are expanded



1917 and 1944

ICRC wins Nobel Peace Prizes for its humanitarian action during the two World Wars



Key dates in 2009

25 March – Launch of the www.ourworld-yourmove.org global campaign web portal. Tell the world the simple ways that you help to move the world

5 May – 90th anniversary of the International Federation

8 May – World Red Cross Red Crescent Day and global launch of the ‘Our world. Your move.’ campaign. The campaign draws the world’s attention to global challenges and the role of individual actions.

Two ICRC photo exhibitions will promote the campaign in Geneva, London, Paris, New York, Nairobi and Beijing. One entitled *Our World – At War* focuses on Afghanistan, Colombia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Georgia, Haiti, Lebanon, Liberia and the Philippines. The second, *Humanity in War*, will be a retrospective and will feature images from the ICRC photo archives going back some 150 years

24 June–2 July – 150th anniversary of the battle of Solferino will commemorate the spirit of volunteerism

In Solferino, Italy, ‘Youth on the move’, the third world Red Cross Red Crescent youth meeting, will discuss current and emerging humanitarian challenges. They will develop a call to action to be presented to representatives of the international community in Geneva, as well as the leaders of the Movement. Youth, volunteers and visitors from around the world will also walk in a candlelight procession, following the footsteps of volunteers who transported the wounded over 10km from the 1859 Solferino battlefield to a first-aid post.

12 August – 60th anniversary of the Geneva Conventions

23–25 November – General Assembly and Council of Delegates in Nairobi

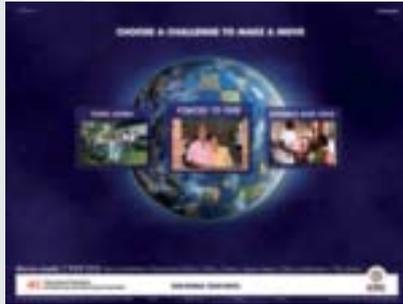
5 December – International Volunteer Day

ourworld-yourmove.org

This campaign is supported by www.ourworld-yourmove.org, a unique web portal that serves as a gateway for the public to explore the world of the Red Cross and Red Crescent — the challenges we face, the work we do and the people we help.

It also offers an interactive platform for people to tell their stories and show their commitment to humanity. The campaign web portal provides a way for the public to get involved, make a move and make a difference in the world.

Highlights of what you will find on www.ourworld-yourmove.org include:



WEB PORTAL INTRODUCTION PAGE IMAGE

Each time you click on a challenge, you are making your move to make the world a better place.

CHALLENGES

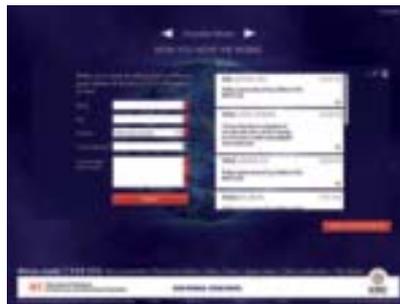
What challenges facing the world today are most

important to you? From women and war to health and care, you can find out more information about these and other challenges and discover what move you can make.



HOW YOU MOVE THE WORLD

What are the simple ways that you help make a difference? You can inspire others by telling the world what actions you have made in your daily life to help improve the world around you.



FIND THE RED CROSS RED CRESCENT CLOSEST TO YOU

You can link your everyday move to the world’s largest humanitarian organization. Find out more about the activities of the local Red Cross or Red Crescent Society in your area and how you can get involved.



FUN WAYS TO MAKE YOUR MOVE

It is easy for you to tell others about the ‘Our world. Your move.’ campaign through web banners, iPhone applications, e-mail signatures, games and videos.

1949
The Geneva Conventions are further expanded and revised



POLISH RED CROSS

1961
Worldwide plan launched to foster and strengthen new National Societies

1963
ICRC and International Federation win Nobel Peace Prize for the Movement’s 100th anniversary



HEINZ ENGELHARDT

Nuraini

Indonesian Red Cross Society volunteer

ourworld-yourmove.org



Despite having experienced profound tragedy, Red Cross volunteer Nuraini is determined to help others. After losing four children, 11 grandchildren and her home to the 2004 tsunami, Nuraini, 72, and her husband used their pension to build a kindergarten in Merduati village, Banda Aceh. "Children should begin their education early, which is why we started this kindergarten," she says. Nuraini also teaches cooking and handicrafts to women as a community facilitator for a Red Cross psychological support programme. "It is important to share your knowledge and skills

with others, so that they can grow and learn too," says Nuraini, adding that many women use these new skills to earn additional income for their families. Nuraini is one of 1,260 volunteers helping their communities to recover from the tsunami. The volunteers identify psychosocial needs in their communities, and design and implement activities to meet them. Facilitators are trained in planning and technical skills, such as psychosocial first aid, to help them carry out their roles.

WILDA ANGGRAEN / AMERICAN RED CROSS

Abbes Sedri

Red Crescent Society of the Islamic Republic of Iran volunteer

ourworld-yourmove.org



More than five years after the Bam earthquake, Abbas Sedri still has times when he cannot grasp how in a few seconds the life of an entire city could change so dramatically — how 26,000 people could perish, how a city could be reduced to a pile of rubble. Abbas never complains about his fate. He did not have to bury his own children, like so many others. But countless relatives, friends and neighbours are gone forever. Abbas came to the Red Crescent after the earthquake. "I helped to distribute tents and food. When something so terrible happens, you have to pull together. The 26 December 2003 showed me how

important it is to be prepared for such a disaster. This is why the Red Crescent teaches classes for young people in schools," he says. "I started five years ago as a volunteer. Now I am a trainer." On his way home each day, Abbas passes gigantic warehouses, where tonnes of relief supplies are stored for future emergencies. "Before the earthquake we had 400 square metres of storage space. Now we have 7,000 square metres. We have learned a great deal from the earthquake; it has changed our lives in many ways."

TILL MAYER / INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION

Milad Samir Salameh

Palestinian Children and Youth Institute

ourworld-yourmove.org



"I am a nurse. In 2007, when the fighting began in Nahr el Bared refugee camp between the Islamist group Fatah al Islam and the Lebanese army, I decided to stay to help. After seven days, there were only three doctors and two nurses remaining, including me. I set up a team of first aiders with some friends and youth. I taught them how to use first-aid kits and dress wounds. I remember that many people were killed or injured, at times in front of my eyes. One day, a rocket exploded in front of a clinic just after I passed the main door. Two people bled to death and seven were injured. One man who died had just told me he was bringing

candles and water for his family who had sought protection in the clinic. A few nights later, Fatah al Islam fighters asked me to come to a house where a woman was in labour. Her husband had been shot a few days before. I knew what to do, but the baby was facing the wrong way. I called a doctor living outside the camp and he helped me. After two hours of labour, at 4.15 am, a little girl was born. I was happy."

FRANCO PAGETTI / ICRC / VII

Jonathan Ponferrado

Philippines National Red Cross volunteer

ourworld-yourmove.org



Jonathan Ponferrado had no way of knowing that by becoming a volunteer he would save his father's life. In 2003, Jonathan's employer offered him additional responsibilities and pay if he learned first aid. "At first, I thought it would be a good way to earn a bit more money at my job," he says. "While I was doing my Red Cross first-aid training, my father became very ill and needed a blood transfusion. I learned that the chapter had a blood bank and a

match for my father. I owe my Dad's life to the Red Cross." Six years later, Jonathan is the Valenzuela chapter Red Cross youth coordinator. He helped produce the chapter's musical production of "The Battle of Solferino". He believes that, 150 years after the battle, Dunant's legacy lives on in youth volunteers. "I tell them one person can make a difference. If no one strikes the match, the fire won't start. All you need is one spark. I don't know who gave the blood that saved my father's life, but one simple act made a huge difference to him and me. That's what inspires me to keep giving back."

PHILIPPINE RED CROSS

1965

Proclamation of the Fundamental Principles of the Red Cross

GERARD LEBLANC / ICRC

1977

Additional Protocols to the 1949 Geneva Conventions

PHILIPPE DUTOIT / ICRC



Françoise Désirée

Cameroon Red Cross Society volunteer

ourworld - yourmove.org



"There is a true spirit of solidarity within the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement, which I have personally experienced through the kindness of other staff and volunteers," says Françoise Désirée, who has volunteered with the Red Cross for six years as a first-aid trainer and HIV peer educator, focusing on people with multiple sex partners. "My main mission is to open a dialogue with these highly vulnerable groups for HIV infection by providing them with counselling, psychological support and inviting them to change their behaviour by explaining the dangers of AIDS. Thanks to the skills I have acquired, I can really make a difference within my community."

One young woman with HIV who came to the Red Cross office stands out especially to Françoise. She felt rejected by her family and friends. Françoise asked her to join the HIV project. "She is now one of the most active peer educators we have in Yaoundé. She has overcome stigma because of her HIV-positive status and now she is helping others to live positively with HIV."

JEAN-LUC MARTINAGE / INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION



Anisa

Afghanistan Red Crescent Society volunteer

ourworld - yourmove.org



Anisa, 58, a mother of nine, is head nurse of the reanimation ward in Jalalabad's Public Health Hospital Number One. During the three decades of war Afghanistan has endured, she has gained extensive experience organizing vaccination campaigns, working in operating theatres and with paraplegics and receiving training on HIV.

Anisa has faced rocket fire, aerial bombardments and insurgent attacks. When Taliban fighters took over the hospital, her superior told her to stay at home. She refused. "If the Taliban or anyone else is in the hospital," she said, "I will still come to help patients." One of Anisa's enduring memories is linked to a patient who was a detainee. "Nobody was allowed to go near him. I was the only one given permission to look after him and bring him his food." Even today, in Afghanistan, it is highly unusual for a male patient to be looked after by a female nurse. Following his release, the man became a high-ranking soldier and returned to the hospital one day to thank Anisa. "He brought me some flour," Anisa recalls. Recently the Red Crescent nominated her for the Florence Nightingale Medal — presented every two years by the ICRC for 'exceptional courage and devotion to the wounded, sick or disabled, or to civilian victims of conflict or disaster'.

ICRC



Jean Guerlain

Haitian National Red Cross Society volunteer

ourworld - yourmove.org



"My job consists of evacuating people from Cité Soleil to medical facilities where their illnesses or wounds will be treated appropriately. In July 2006, just a few metres from our Red Cross office, I was caught in a gun battle between United Nations soldiers and gang members. I was shot in the mouth and I was bleeding a lot. I managed to drag a UN officer to our office but then I lost consciousness. I've undergone six major operations. I am paralysed down one side of my face and I speak with great difficulty. People look at me in a weird way sometimes. I don't really care. I am here to evacuate people from Cité Soleil and I will continue to do so. It is true that

working here is much less dangerous than when I was shot, but you never know, the violent times can come again. People are angry and discontented. They have little to eat and nothing to do. Some people have always used the poor living in the shanty towns to stir up discontent for their own political ends. I fear that there will always be work for the Red Cross teams here."

RON HAVIV / ICRC / VII



Japwepwe Macarthy

Sierra Leone Red Cross Society volunteer

ourworld - yourmove.org



For more than a decade, Japwepwe Macarthy, 31, has been a dedicated Red Cross volunteer in rural Moyamba district, where he supports six out of 12 chiefdoms in HIV and malaria prevention. "I want to assist my country and help my neighbours," says Japwepwe. "Serving my people makes me happy and proud, knowing that I helped save a life by convincing someone to change their behaviour."

Japwepwe is one of more than 4,000 Sierra Leone Red Cross volunteers who have handed out some 875,000 mosquito nets to families at 900 distribution points throughout the country. Their efforts helped reduce distribution costs and made sure families were trained on how to hang and use the net to prevent malaria. After the net distributions, Japwepwe and other volunteers went from house to house across the district undertaking "Hang Up" activities, to ensure families continued to correctly use their new net. "If the bed nets are not properly hung, mosquitoes will continue to bite, children will continue to die from malaria and this initiative would have been in vain," says Japwepwe. "These visits are an important part of protecting children from malaria."

CANADIAN RED CROSS

1994 ICRC and International Federation have observer status at the United Nations General Assembly



ICRC / A. HOLLMANN

1997 Movement global campaign to ban anti-personnel mines



VICTORIA ILEVA-YORKE / ICRC

2005 The International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent adopts the red crystal emblem

2009 150th anniversary of the battle of Solferino, 90th anniversary of the International Federation, 60th anniversary of Geneva Conventions and launch of the 'Our world. Your move.' global campaign

Flight and survival in North Kivu

Last October, as fighting raged in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Red Cross volunteers and their ICRC colleagues strove to come to the aid of some 200,000 civilians forced to flee their homes. Three of them describe their experiences.



"IT was 1 November. After a very turbulent period, we were finally able to get to Kibati from Goma to bring relief," explains Lucy, a young volunteer of the Red Cross Society of the DRC. "We knew that thousands of civilians, including many women and children, had congregated in this small camp for displaced people, which already existed at the time. But the reality was even harder than we expected. The new arrivals had nothing, absolutely nothing. No food, no proper shelter and, in some cases, not even water."

All night long, torrential rain had battered the earth in Kibati, a village surrounded by two camps for displaced people just a few kilometres outside Goma, the provincial capital of North Kivu. In the early hours of the morning, under a leaden sky, Agnès* emerged fearfully from a makeshift shelter, shivering, terrified by what the day would bring. The shelter in question was noth-

ing but a rain-soaked piece of cloth tied to the branches of a tree. Beneath it, a skinny little boy barely 18 months old was asleep on a pile of leaves. The mother sat by herself at the roadside, gazing bleakly at the youngster's torn clothing, her second baby clutched to her chest.

Agnès and Lucy, both aged 24, had met at the entrance to the camp. Agnès, starving, exhausted and visibly traumatized, held herself apart from the rest of the crowd. Lucy was a member of the Red Cross team preparing to launch emergency assistance activities for displaced people in Kibati, starting with the basics — distributions of food, water and essential household items. A few days later, 50,000 displaced people in Kibati were to receive food rations, while the water-trucks began their daily rounds to deliver clean drinking water.

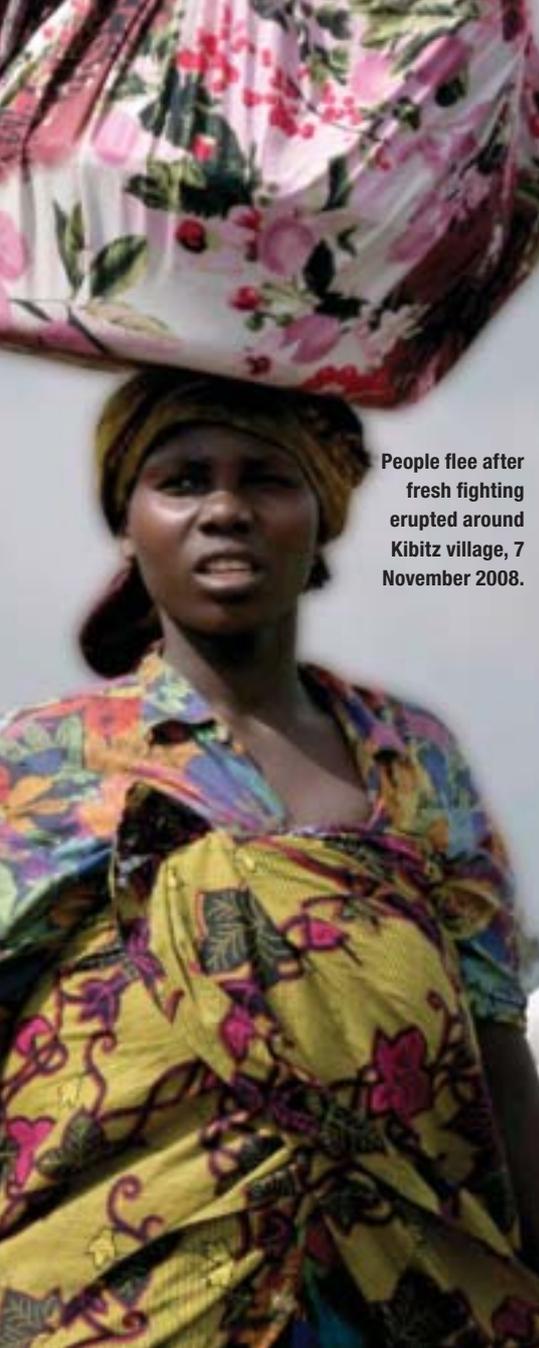
Victims of rape

The two women rapidly developed a rapport, and Agnès confided to the vol-

unteer that she had been raped during the family's flight. Bruised and rejected by her husband, the young woman had only one reason left to live: to ensure her children's survival. "Agnès and her little ones by the road to Kibati, that's the image that comes to mind when I think of these people's suffering," says Lucy with undisguised emotion.

The health centre on the outskirts of the camps houses a small construction made of plastic sheeting. Here, people who have suffered particularly traumatic experiences, such as sexual violence, are received in complete confidentiality. It is a counselling centre, a place where victims of sexual violence and other abuses can seek assistance. The ICRC is supporting 34 such centres in North and South Kivu.

"Our counselling centre was looted during the violence in October," says Charlotte, another young Red Cross volunteer, with sparkling eyes. "In November, we had to start all over again



People flee after fresh fighting erupted around Kibitz village, 7 November 2008.

her the strength to fight tooth and nail against five armed men,” says Charlotte. “The baby must have fallen out onto the ground, and the mother found him later after her neighbours intervened.”

“She did not say right away that she had been raped, and I am sure she could not feel the bleeding wound on her head,” continues Charlotte. “The only thing that mattered was that she had found her child. She was so happy, this mother, despite her ordeal.” The volunteer concludes: “Patience was lucky. These stories generally end far more tragically.”

Lost children

Beside the counselling centre is a DRC Red Cross unit whose task it is to respond to another basic need: the restoration of family links. Displaced people go there to write messages to their loved ones separated from them by the front line.

Most people come there for other reasons, be it to submit a tracing request to find a child lost in the chaos of flight or to let it be known that they have found an unaccompanied child.

“It is one of the big problems that occur during mass displacements in our region,” explains Prosper, who has worked for the ICRC for 15 years. “When there are seven, eight, even nine children in a family, which is often the case, the parents have trouble keeping them all together and staying in contact with them in a fleeing crowd.” Prosper has a mobile phone whose number is known throughout North Kivu. The

calls he receives often come from people with information about unaccompanied children.

Since the beginning of the crisis, the names of unaccompanied children registered by the ICRC have been broadcast three times a day on five provincial radio stations. Dozens of children have been reunited with their relatives thanks to these efforts. “The smallest ones, those who do not know their own names, are photographed and their pictures displayed in sites for displaced people throughout the province,” explains Prosper.

Near him, a tiny little girl is crying and hides her eyes every time the Red Cross volunteers try to take her photo. The displaced family that took her in christened her Grace, since they don’t know her real name. The skeletal child was found in a disturbed state next to the body of her father in a village ‘visited’ by armed men. The photo session over, Grace runs into the arms of her new mother, looks back at the volunteers and then smiles shyly at Prosper.

The victims of the conflict will bear the scars of these painful events for many years to come. Despite the violence and the insecurity, aid workers like Lucy, Charlotte and Prosper are doing their utmost each day to bring them a little comfort in the midst of the horror.

Olga Miltcheva

Olga Miltcheva is ICRC communication delegate in Goma.

* Names have been changed.

from scratch.” Charlotte has dealt with more than 200 women like Agnès since she started out as a social worker. “After an assault, the most urgent requirement is usually of a medical nature,” she explains. “But we mustn’t forget that the victim often has invisible wounds — psychological wounds that take even longer to heal.

“When a victim comes to us, she is often shattered, on the verge of collapse. In such cases, we let her rest here. After that, she will probably go away, then come back the next day. The important thing is that she feels at ease. She also needs to understand that we will not divulge a single thing, neither her story nor her identity. In order to find a solution together, we have to build a bond of trust between us.”

Charlotte remembers another woman in Kibati: Patience,* a 37-year-old displaced woman raped in a field with her seven-month-old baby on her back. “That was what gave

Children who lost their parents in the turmoil of fighting eat at the Don Bosco centre in Goma in eastern Congo, 20 November 2008.



REUTERS / STRINGER. COURTESY WWW.ALERTNET.ORG

REUTERS / FINBARR O'REILLY. COURTESY WWW.ALERTNET.ORG



AFTER the three terrible hurricanes that devastated Haiti in 2008 and an arduous relief operation, Marie-Claude Elie left the emergency areas in Gonaives when she heard the sirens. The Canadian Red Cross nurse climbed on to the roof of her hotel and saw a cloud of smoke and dust enveloping the city. A school had collapsed. On reaching the school, she found many children and adults buried under rubble, crying for help. Amid the general panic, Elie remained calm and began to lead the rescue operation.

“What seems really heroic to me is that she remained four hours under a very unstable structure, attending to injured children, in spite of warnings that she was risking her life,” Jean-Pierre Taschereau, disaster management delegate with the International Federation’s Pan American Disaster Response Unit (PADRU), says.

“Until the rescue teams could get there, she devised a system of tubes to get water to people trapped under the rubble. She saved the lives of many Haitians that day. She also set an example for all of us, her colleagues.

“When I asked her if she realized what she had done, she replied modestly that she had only done the same as all the people from the Haitian National Red Cross Society who were there with her. She said that they were the real heroes of the situation and that all she did was share the experience with the others,” adds Taschereau.

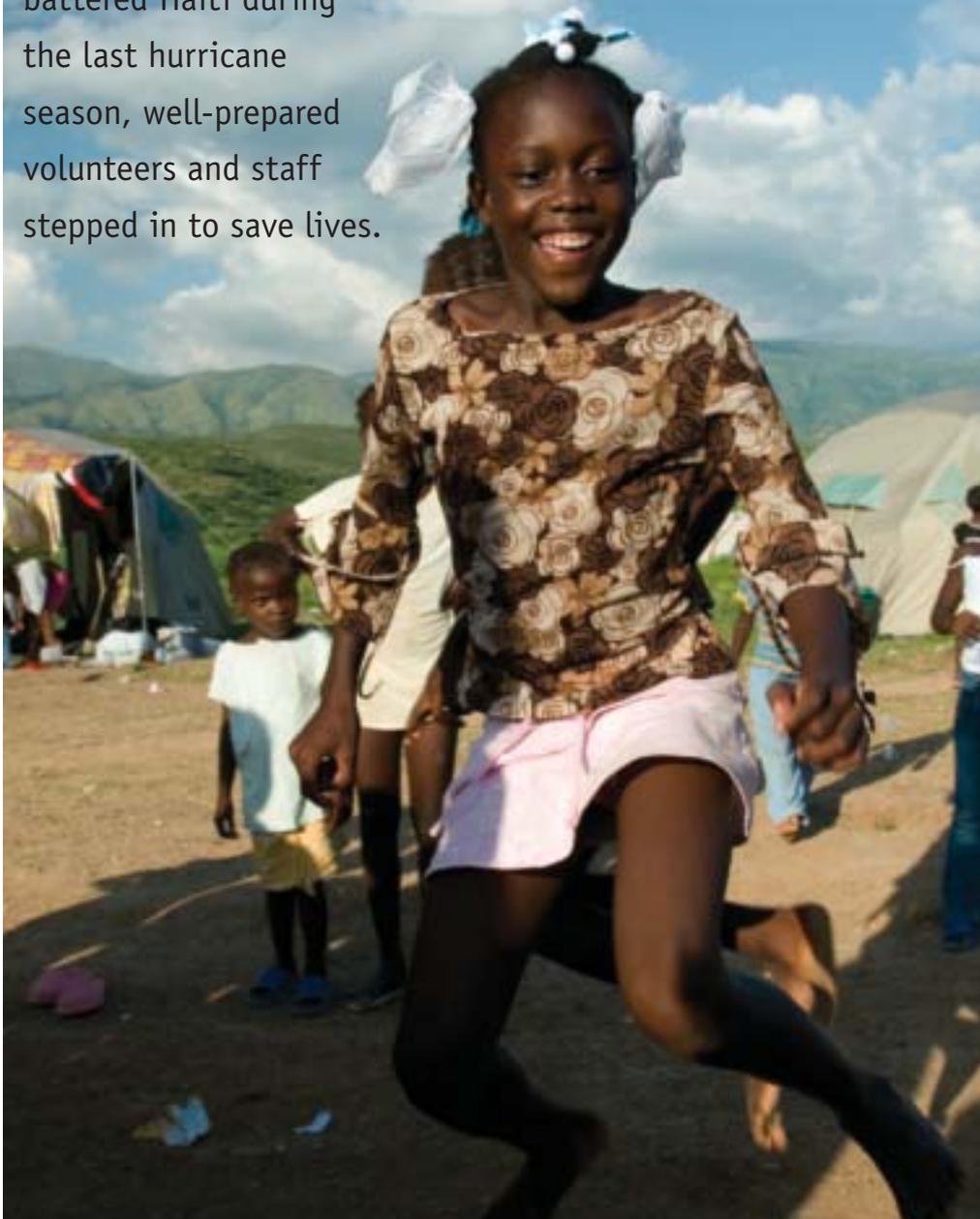
The case of Marie-Claude Elie and her fellow volunteers who worked to rescue people highlights not only the Red Cross Red Crescent spirit of assistance. It also shows the vulnerability of countries like Haiti, which bear the brunt of nature’s wrath. Climate change and the extensive deforestation of woodlands have led to severe soil erosion and the sedimentation of the river basins in this Caribbean nation of 9 million people.

“Here in Haiti, it is estimated that more than 90 per cent of tree cover has been destroyed for various reasons — poor land-use practices, felling trees for firewood to cook, etc.” says Rafael Olaya, the International Federation’s regional representative. “The resulting degradation of the land means that any rain that falls has a more serious impact. When it rains heavily, as it did during the storms we are referring to, it is not just croplands that are affected, whole riverside villages can be swept away.”

In August and September 2008, tropical storm Fay and hurricanes Gustav, Hanna and Ike swept across the tiny

Haiti Between the hurricanes

When four deadly storms battered Haiti during the last hurricane season, well-prepared volunteers and staff stepped in to save lives.



nation. Taschereau says: “When the island was struck by three hurricanes in succession, access to affected areas was hampered, bridges were destroyed, roads swept away and communities left isolated. As people were beginning to recover from the first hurricane, along came the second, and then the third. Faced with such devastation, we had to act fast, deploying over 45 international staff to support Haitian Red Cross volunteers.

“I flew over Gonaives after Hurricane Hanna and I could see that over 80 per cent of the area was covered by water. We began by restoring the supply of safe drinking water and cleaning wells. We also implemented programmes to promote community health in shelters, repair houses and assist displaced people. We were overwhelmed by the sheer scale of the work to be done,” he says.

As well as killing hundreds of people, the storms devastated farmland and crops. More than 80 per cent of agricultural production was lost and the drinking water supply was severely affected. It is estimated that 30 per cent of banana crops and 20 per cent of staple crops were destroyed, along with thousands of cows and fishing boats. The damage put additional pressure on food

Children displaced by storms in Haiti play at a camp in the town of Cabaret after Haitian Red Cross volunteers delivered emergency aid there to hundreds of people who lost their homes.



A woman who lost her house in Hurricane Gustav receives emergency food, water and kitchen utensils at a camp in the town of Cabaret.

prices, already rising due to the global financial crisis.

Giteau Jean-Pierre, executive officer of the Haitian National Red Cross Society is well aware of the dangers that threaten his country.

“People in rural areas have lost their livelihoods, as they can no longer work their plantations, and have been forced to move to Port-au-Prince. The capital has therefore seen a great influx of people, adding to hardship and poverty there,” he says. “Meanwhile, we are providing medical attention, supporting schools, planning the distribution of food supplies to people going hungry and providing non-food items to families who have lost almost everything. We are also operating two mobile units, one in the south and the other in the Gonaives region, to provide medical attention in these areas.”

Jean-Pierre has appealed to the international community to strengthen the agricultural system, provide provisional shelters and rebuild schools and hospital facilities. “We need to implement an intensive programme to assist people, otherwise we will be seeing thousands of people on the street and a severe food crisis unprecedented in my country,” he adds.

“The general situation is calmer now and projects are operating in a climate of cooperation,” says Brigitte Gaillis, head of International Federation operations to support the Haitian Red Cross. Furthermore, since December, 10,000 household kits have been donated, 400 people have received psychological care, 1,500 families have benefited from malaria prevention, latrines have been constructed for 300 families, more than 15,000 families have benefited from the supply of

safe drinking water, the homes of 4,000 families have been rehabilitated and the assistance continues.

However, the experience of Red Cross Red Crescent operations in Haiti has shown that in the long run every dollar invested in disaster preparedness will reduce vulnerability and, it is hoped, spending on emergency response.

Several months after the emergency, Jean-Pierre Taschereau is back at PADRU headquarters in Panama. Looking back, he realizes that the improved response to the last hurricanes was thanks to better planning. “We gained experience between one hurricane and the next, and we had stocks in position, we had local volunteers ready to warn communities about risks so that we could organize preventive evacuation operations and we had qualified people.

“As a result, fewer human lives were lost. The indisputable key to this improvement was disaster preparedness and risk reduction.”

Alejandro Balaguer

Alejandro Balaguer is a photojournalist and documentary film-maker working in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Marie-Claude Elie



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Marie-Claude Elie, a nurse with the Canadian Red Cross Society, worked alongside Haitian National Red Cross Society staff and volunteers to help people affected by deadly hurricanes and the collapse of a school in Gonaives.



Financial crisis in Iceland

The Icelandic Red Cross goes into emergency response mode as an entire country becomes a casualty of the global financial crisis.

UNEMPLOYMENT does not sit easily with people in Iceland, one of the world's richest countries, which has been hit hard by the global financial crisis.

"We are preparing to serve new groups of beneficiaries who have never sought

help from the Red Cross before," says Helga G. Halldorsdottir, director of Icelandic Red Cross domestic programmes. "We are also looking towards recruiting new volunteers — to respond to the arising need but also as a way for people to continue contributing to society although they find themselves out of work."

After years of full employment, growth and wealth, unemployment rates in the North Atlantic country of just 320,000 people soared 500 per cent in four months. One in ten is expected to be jobless by the end of 2009. Companies reduced working hours and many employees suffered severe salary cuts.

The value of the Icelandic krona fell drastically. Inflation stood at an unheard-of 20 per cent at the start of 2009. This was expected to be disastrous for many

people with foreign currency mortgages on their homes.

Iceland, a nation that was one of the most affluent in the world, reeled from the financial crisis in early 2009, sparking demonstrations. It was a nation in crisis.

New Red Cross role

The situation triggered emergency response mode in the Icelandic Red Cross. In October 2008, the Red Cross scaled up its psychosocial programmes, embarking on providing large-scale psychological support for people suffering from the economic crash.

"The experience of our Nordic sister National Societies that suffered sharp financial crisis in the early 1990s shows that it is important to attend to the psychological needs of the people as soon as possible after the shock," says Kristjan Sturluson, the secretary general of the Icelandic Red Cross, who holds a psychology degree. "The Icelandic Red Cross provides psychological support in the aftermath of natural disasters, and we feel there is just as much need for it now although this is a man-made crisis."

Sturluson points out that most people go through a very similar emotional pattern when affected by a shock. But unlike sudden-onset disasters, the crisis in Iceland unfolded over months, leaving people confused and angry, desperately trying to find their way in a society turned upside down.

"We notice that people have now come out of their disbelief, and they are outraged. Every ordinary home in Iceland has been affected by the crisis in some way, and many people are facing difficulties in making ends meet," says Sturluson.

In the first six months of 2009, the Icelandic Red Cross plans to run a trauma centre open to the public, where people can gather, share lunch, attend workshops and seek individual support from members of the Red Cross psychosocial team. The need is evident, reflected in a 40 per cent increase of phone calls to the Red Cross 24-hour helpline after October — most of which were linked

People gather in Reykjavik, the capital of Iceland, to protest against the government.

REUTERS / INTS KALNINS, COURTESY WWW.SIERTNET.ORG





A man takes money from an automatic teller machine outside the Icelandic bank Kaupthing. The value of the Icelandic krona has plummeted, leaving thousands of people in need.



Isabella Theodorsdottir

ourworld-yourmove.org

Isabella Theodorsdottir, 30, lost her job in a dental clinic in October 2008 due to the economical crisis. She had been wanting to become a volunteer for a while, but when she found herself suddenly unemployed she decided it was time to join the Red Cross. She now visits a young woman with an intellectual disability. "I am very outgoing and I need to be around other people, so this also works for my own benefit."

ICELANDIC RED CROSS

to provide anonymity for those seeking help."

Changed landscape

The Red Cross also increased individual support such as clothing and food distribution, and worked with national social welfare institutions to respond to the crisis. The National Society is prepared to step up its assistance even further in the months to come.

"We expect much more need for assistance in the coming months as the financial crisis deepens and the consequences are more wide-

ly felt and more people lose their jobs," says Halldorsdottir.

The Icelandic government swiftly acted on Red Cross recommendations to include a clause in new labour laws passed in January, where people seeking unemployment benefits through the national unemployment agency

could sign up to become Red Cross volunteers while looking for a job.

The changed financial landscape also affected the international work of the Icelandic Red Cross. Severe deflation of the krona made it difficult for the National Society to keep its commitments in other parts of the world. Last year's international budget of 350 million Icelandic krona yielded some US\$ 5.7 million at the beginning of 2008, but a year later the same amount would only give a total of US\$ 3.1 million.

The Icelandic Red Cross nonetheless managed to honour all long-term agreements made to its main partners in Africa and the Middle East through reorganization of plans and budgets. In an example of Nordic solidarity, the Norwegian, Swedish, Finnish and Danish Red Cross Societies pledged to assist the Icelandic Red Cross to meet its international obligations.

Solveig Olafsdottir

Solveig Olafsdottir is director of communications at the Icelandic Red Cross.

OLIVIER MORIN / AFP PHOTO

to people's changed circumstances due to the ongoing crisis.

"People find comfort in being able to call a service where there is full confidentiality," explains Sturluson. "We feel that this is also true for face-to-face psychological support, and it is important that the Red Cross is able

The crisis hits home

Even before the crisis hit, many countries were already suffering a food and fuel crisis in which 130 to 155 million people fell into extreme poverty, according to World Bank estimates.

- Many developing countries face much tighter credit and higher interest rates.
- Gross domestic product growth in 2009 in developing countries is expected to fall to 4.5 per cent from 7.9 per cent in 2007.
- Remittances that workers send to home countries are projected to decline.
- Foreign investment and short-term credit are drying up.
- Developing country exports are falling; large amounts of capital have been withdrawn (source: www.worldbank.org).
- Unemployment could increase by 20 million people.
- The number of working poor living on less than a dollar a day could rise by 40 million, those at US\$ 2 dollars a day by more than 100 million (source: www.ilo.org).

Our response

The members of the International Red Cross Red Crescent Movement share concern about the humanitarian consequences of the global financial crisis.

- Natural disasters, conflict and the global economic crisis have left the world's most vulnerable populations exposed as never before. We are extremely concerned that the poorest of the poor will be the ones to pay the real costs of the current financial crisis.
- We are closely observing the impact of the crisis on livelihoods, savings, pensions, employment, food prices, etc.
- We might have to increase humanitarian assistance because of deepening poverty, pay more for food aid to feed hungry people and ask donors for more money.



Our world is in a mess.
It's time to make your move.

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International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies



ICRC



Gaza Civilians in the firing line

On top of a year and a half of restrictions came three weeks of intense fighting. For the people of Gaza, who bore the brunt of a conflict in which there are no winners, the road to normality and dignity is still a long one.

TIVADAR DOMANIGZKY / ICRC / VII

An ICRC team assesses the destruction of houses in the Shijaya neighbourhood of Gaza City, 24 January 2009.



THE story made the headlines across the Arab world. For three days, 14-year-old Amira Al-Gerem's name was on the list of presumed dead in the district of Tel Al-Hawa, in central Gaza City, after tank fire reduced her family's home to rubble, killing her father and two brothers instantly. Amira was found injured on 17 January, the day before the ceasefire between Israel and Hamas came into effect, ending their armed confrontation. The young girl had taken refuge in a neighbouring apartment, abandoned by its occupants who, like so many others, had been forced to flee the intensity of the fighting.

Although she miraculously survived, Amira has not escaped the war unscathed. She was rapidly operated on, and her bodily injuries will heal. Her mother keeps vigil by her bedside. She



Clockwise from top left: A Palestinian boy is carried to hospital in Gaza; thousands of people have been left homeless by the fighting; a woman recovers at Gaza City's Shifa hospital; despite chronic insecurity, more than 400 PRCs staff reported to work during the fighting; a mother watches as her son plays in front of their destroyed house.

will be given a roof over her head, even if only temporarily. But will she ever wipe from her memory the moment when she had to climb over the lifeless bodies of her father and brothers to get out of her house — or what was left of it?

Here in January 2009, Amira personifies in many respects the Gaza Strip, ravaged by three weeks of unprecedented, unremitting violence. In this conflict, there are no victors and only one loser: the civilian population.

In the absence of independent information, it is difficult to tell the war's precise toll. According to figures that the Gazan Health Ministry published at the end of January, more than 1,380 people have been killed and 5,640 wounded. One thing is sure, however: a particularly high proportion of the victims were women and children.

The figure, sad and unacceptable though it is, is not entirely surprising. The population of Gaza is almost one and a half million. Most of them are crammed into densely populated urban areas. Conducting military operations in such a context can only put civilians at enormous risk.

Traces of the conflict

Shijaya is one of the poorest districts in Gaza City. Here, evidence of the conflict is everywhere. Barely a few days after the end of hostilities and before the reopening of schools, children once again throng the streets, their playground of choice. Dozens run alongside Palestinian Red Crescent and ICRC teams out and about to deliver urgently needed relief goods to families whose apartments were damaged in the fighting: plastic

sheeting to replace windows and doors shattered by explosions, blankets, and buckets and other basic items required for washing and cooking.

It is not enough, however, to assuage the anger of Leila Al-Helou, one of the 80,000 recipients of the emergency assistance distributed in the days following the ceasefire. The mother of six picks her way carefully up the stairs of the building in which she lived, with seven other families, until just a few days ago. "The building was hit several times," she says, surrounded by rubble and the debris of furniture. "Thank God, my husband, my children and I had already left the place."

The building's top two stories had collapsed with the violence of the shock. One of the remaining walls has a hole 1.5 metres in diameter, through which you can see the villages of southern Israel some

TOP LEFT: REUTERS / ISMAEL ZAYDAH, COURTESY www.alertnet.org
ALL PHOTOS: TVRADAR DOMANICZKY / ICRC / VII



2 kilometres away. “We have been living here for 20 years. Now, we have nowhere to go, we have lost everything,” says Al-Helou.

Like an earthquake

Throughout the Gaza Strip, several thousand houses and apartments have been completely or partially destroyed in the conflict. At the beginning of February, the ICRC and the Palestinian Red Crescent counted more than 3,300 damaged houses in the areas where the fighting was fiercest. Some districts look as if they have been struck by an earthquake. But just about every person in the territory has suffered the consequences in one way or another.

When the conflict was at its height, two-thirds of Gazans were completely without power and one-third without drinking water. Three weeks after it ended, tens of thousands of people still had no running water, being obliged to buy it from private vendors at double the normal price. Certain districts in Gaza, as well as places in the north of the Gaza Strip such as Jabaliya, Beit Hanoun and Beit Lahiya, will have to wait even longer to be reconnected to public water and power networks.

Gaza City’s sewage treatment facility, situated in an agricultural zone, was

bombed during the second week of the war. “Three million litres of waste water instantly flooded the surrounding localities and fields, wiping out crops and endangering the health of tens of thousands of people,” recalls Marek Komarzinski, an ICRC engineer. It took three weeks after the fighting was over to get the station back in working order.

Swamped by a sudden influx of wounded people, often in a serious condition, the health services worked round the clock for three weeks, until almost at breaking point, relying on generators to keep the equipment going when fuel supplies threatened to run out at any moment. According to the World Health Organization, eight hospitals and at least 26 primary healthcare centres, including the Al-Quds Red Crescent hospital, were directly or indirectly damaged in the fighting.

Consequences of closures

The blow to Gaza and its population was all the more severe coming as it did after one and a half years of deprivation. “The situation was already critical before the January conflict,” explains Antoine Grand, head of the ICRC office in Gaza. “The closures imposed by Israel since summer 2007 have had disastrous effects on hospitals, on sanitation systems, and

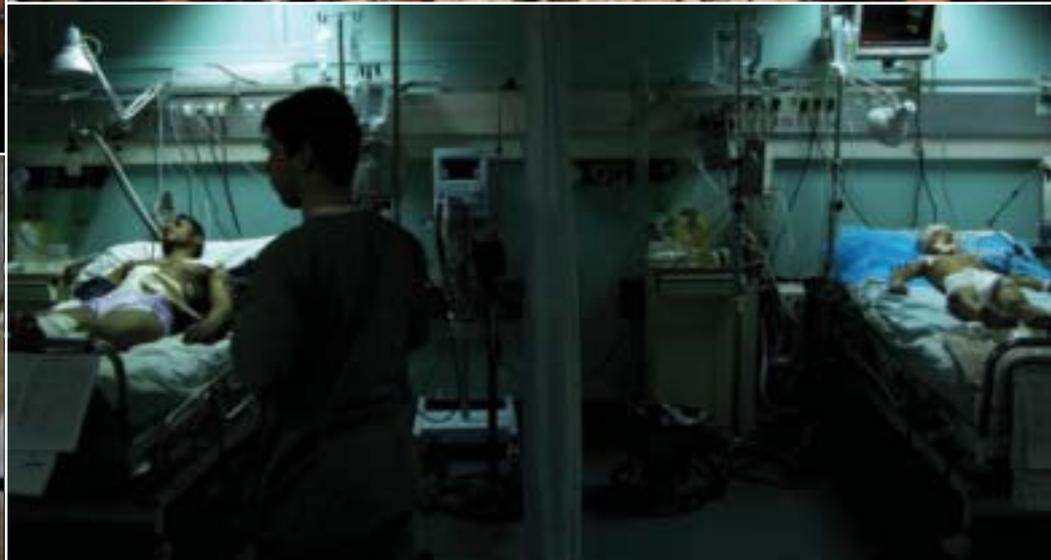
on water and electricity supply.” The lack of cooperation between the Palestinian Authority, run from Ramallah in the West Bank, and the Hamas administration in Gaza has not facilitated access for the aid necessary to improve basic public services.

The restrictions have had other adverse consequences for the population: almost 50 per cent unemployment, rampant inflation, rising poverty, a drop in agricultural production, the deterioration in the diets of an increasing number of people, threatening their long-term health, etc. All of the humanitarian organizations working in Gaza have been striving to counter these effects, making representations to the Israeli authorities, since they control almost all routes in and out of the territory.

“To get Gaza back on its feet and repair its infrastructure, there must be a non-stop and unrestricted supply of building materials and spare parts,” warns Antoine Grand. “Workers are available. They just need something to work with. But if we go back to the pre-war situation, with one closure after another, reconstruction will simply not be possible.”

Sébastien Carliez (ICRC Geneva) with Iyad Nasr (ICRC Gaza).

Clockwise from top left: Plastic sheeting was distributed to cover blown-out windows in Gaza; nothing much remains of some parts of Jabaliya in the northern Gaza Strip; the influx of wounded ran so high in Shifa hospital, surgeons had to operate round the clock; an elderly couple at a PRCS distribution site.



ALL PHOTOS: TIVADAR DOMANICZKY / ICRC / VII EXCEPT TOP RIGHT: REUTERS / SUHAIB SALEM, COURTESY WWW.AICTE.NET.ORG



Palestinians run as they carry a wounded man after an Israeli air strike in Gaza, 2 January 2009.

“There was a lack of respect for medical teams”

Dr Khaled Jouda is head of the Palestine Red Crescent Society (PRCS) in the Gaza Strip. He explains how delicate the work of his teams was during the crisis in January.

What was PRCS's role during the events?

We tried as much as we could to continue providing all types of medical services at all times to the population throughout the Strip. Our ambulance teams took the wounded mainly to the Al-Quds hospital in Gaza City. During the three-week conflict, we managed to transport around 2,400 injured people and moved 1,100 civilians trapped in dangerous areas to safety. Our teams also evacuated 750 bodies. Most of the time, the movement of our ambulances was carried out with the coordination of the ICRC and sometimes even escorted by ICRC teams.

What were the biggest challenges faced by your teams?

The evacuation and transportation of wounded and sick people were made extremely difficult, due in particular to the unpredictable nature of the fighting. The movement of our emergency medical teams was very much limited even when they were operating close to their bases or to our warehouses. I have to say that there was often a lack of respect for medical

teams and for the Red Crescent emblem. The toughest challenge we faced, though, was when the PRCS compound was hit by shelling twice on the same day, setting a warehouse, some offices and our cultural centre on fire. After the second incident, the fire brigades were denied access to our buildings for three hours. That could have had disastrous consequences for the lives of 350 people, many of whom were wounded and sick being treated at the Al-Quds hospital, as well as families who had taken refuge in our compound.

We decided to evacuate the hospital amid continuous fighting in the neighbourhood. Patients in the intensive care unit were taken out lying on their beds. Newborn babies were moved in their incubators. The

patients who could walk had to carry their intravenous drips by themselves. It was a horrifying scene and I still find it difficult to describe.

The conflict also took its toll on our staff. One volunteer was killed and six medical workers were injured. But despite all these difficulties and the personal challenges that the conflict posed on our teams and their families, about half of our 800 regular staff members reported to work during these three weeks. Another 30 people volunteered to join our teams.

What were your needs and priorities in the immediate aftermath of the crisis?

Our first priority is to rehabilitate the damage to our facilities, in particular parts of the hospital and the warehouse. Then, we need new ambulances and spare parts to repair those that were damaged during the conflict. For the sake of the population of Gaza, cooperation and coordination with partner National Societies are crucial to mobilize the support we need so that we can resume normal activities.

REUTERS / ISMAIL ZAYDAH, COURTESY www.alternet.org

The spectre of famine hovers over East Africa.
What can the Red Cross Red Crescent do to help?

Horn of Africa On the margin

REUTERS / JOSEPH OKANGA COURTESY www.alertnet.org

Salihu Sultan is surely as dedicated to his community as anyone could ask of a Red Cross branch leader. Rather than join his wife and four children in Addis Ababa, 600 km to the north, he stays in his small town-house on a busy street in Negele — the melting-pot market town in Ethiopia's drought-stricken far south.

Sultan, 40, his volunteers and board members keep an eye (from a lack of resources, not much more than that) on the swelling population of vulnerable groups in and around the town.

Like the large community of Marehan tribal people who lost their cattle to raiders and stay in improvised settlements on the edge of town. Or the

Ethiopian refugees who fled to Somalia from the 1974–87 Derg regime and later came back to resettle in their own country. Or the soldiers-turned-farmers who live in an old barracks just outside town and who lost their crop in the drought that ruined the first harvest of 2008.

But more than anything else, Sultan worries about the nomadic pastoralist communities scattered across thousands of square kilometres of parched outback on either side of the tracks leading south to the Kenyan border. Many of them are in the red area of the Famine Early Warning Systems (FEWS) Network map — where households face a significant shortfall in basic food requirements, leading to distress sales of productive assets like cattle and, says FEWS, “high levels of acute malnutrition”.

“The drought is very serious in this area,” says Sultan, as he stands on an

Salihu Sultan

ourworld-yourmove.org



Salihu Sultan, 40, Ethiopian Red Cross Society branch leader in Negele, worries about hunger in communities of nomadic pastoralists scattered across thousands of square kilometres of parched outback near the Kenyan border. “The drought is very serious in this area. If the Dawa River dries up too, we could see a major disaster here.”

ALEX WYNTER / INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION

embankment just above the dried-up Chulul River — one of the most important locally for supplying isolated pastoral communities with water. “If the Dawa River dries up too, we could see a major disaster here.”

A detailed picture of the environmental and humanitarian crisis in this part of Oromiya region emerged last year after a survey conducted in July by local officials was made available to the International Federation assessment team that visited

ns of survival

A farmer gathers shrivelled corn on his farm in Kwale, a town in Kenya's Coast Province.



the Horn of Africa in preparation for a new appeal.

The report is cautious; there is no hint of local special pleading. If anything, the Oromiya experts went out of their way to emphasize the resilience for which pastoralists in the Horn of Africa are famous. In a section on ‘coping mechanisms’, the assessors — local officials, agronomists, water engineers and nurses — detailed how struggling pastoralists share whatever they have to make sure no one goes totally without, hunt wild animals, gather fruits and roots, and engage in small-scale business activities like making and selling charcoal — a major cause of deforestation. But their interviewees “uniformly reported” the past three rainy seasons were “so bad that the livestock produc-

tion environment has shown dramatic deterioration”. Pasture was in short supply because of “overgrazing due to prolonged drought”; there were acute shortages of water for human consumption; crops were poor from “lack of rain at critical periods”; and even the options for migration to neighbouring areas — a traditional nomadic solution — were limited because conditions were no better elsewhere.

Brink of famine

But most serious, for communities almost completely dependent on their animals, was the effect on cattle. “Due to prolonged drought cattle have not calved,” the report said, and “milk availability has become extremely low.” The price of a cup of milk had tripled to three Ethiopian birr (about 30 US cents). Cattle were dying in “unusual numbers”.

An International Federation field trip to the village of Melka Guba, about half way between Negele and the Kenyan frontier, confirmed this. “We’ve lost more than 1,000 cattle this year alone,” said headman Dhane Gelgelo, “and more are dying all the time.” At its peak, the community’s herd numbered 6,000 animals; now they’re down to about 2,000.

Surviving cattle were in very poor condition, attempting to graze on the useless weeds that make the ground look deceptively green in places. “There are now 620 households registered as losing their cattle,” added Gelgelo, 34, explaining that villagers used to be willing to make long trips into the bush to find pasture and browse but have given up because it’s pointless, so severe is the drought.

“After all this,” he says, “we’re assuming that people will start to die.” And he adds that out in the bush, away from the road, they have heard that some fellow pastoralists are already dying.

Malnutrition was not dramatically obvious in Melka Guba; there is no feeding centre; no scenes of dehydrated, dying infants that have historically triggered massive food-relief operations in Africa. But the condition of the animals looked like a warning from the gods: the scrub around the village is strewn with their bones, picked clean by hyenas at night.

Like most villagers in Melka Guba, Konso Aga, 45, eats only twice a day. “Roasted maize seed in the morning for breakfast or sometimes *kollo* [barley],” she told the International Federation. “Boiled maize for dinner. I also eat mud *bura* or *ogomde*,” wild berries that

JOSE CENDON / INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION

Red Cross volunteers distribute food aid to people in Ethiopia.



grow nearby and help pastoralists cope in lean times. But no meat, no proper fruit or vegetables, no dairy products.

When the villagers point out that there are no longer any kind of special foodstuffs for children (they switch straight from the breast to grain, softened with water or roasted but still indigestible for the very young), it's not difficult to see why they are always first to fall victim to food-security crises like this. And their 'meals' are washed down with water so obviously dirty and unsafe it looks more like tea.

"People are heading toward mass starvation unless the world does something," says Bekele Geleta, the International Federation's secretary general and himself Ethiopian-born.

"There are much more frequent droughts now," he adds, "and they affect new areas, and more and more people."

In Negele, Ethiopian Red Cross Society branch members and local officials agree the impact of drought has intensified since the July assessment recommended urgent food assistance for more than 140,000 people in just the two *woredas* (districts) it looked at: Liben and Goro-Dola.

The report spoke of a majority of people "sliding from normal nutritional status to malnutrition" as a result of "en-



At a feeding centre in Boditi village in Ethiopia's Wolayita region, a malnourished boy clutches his mother's hand.

JOSE GENDON / INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION

vironmental and market shock". Out of a total of nearly 30,000 children under 5, 85 per cent needed emergency feeding; half of nearly 6,500 lactating mothers and pregnant women needed "emergency supplementary feeding". Some new mothers, it said, had been found in an "emaciated" condition.

Soaring food prices

There is nothing new about drought in the Horn, where it's gravely exacerbat-

ed by conflicts that in some cases have stretched over decades, especially in Somalia. "We're seeing a major deterioration of the humanitarian situation in Somalia," says Pascal Mauchle, head of the Nairobi-based ICRC delegation for the country. "Hundreds of thousands of people have fled fighting and drought." Last year the ICRC nearly tripled the level of its food aid to Somalia compared to 2007 (see box).

Working through the Somali Red Crescent Society, still the only organization with anything like widespread humanitarian access, the International Federation's appeal aims to extend existing health, nutrition and water and sanitation networks in Somaliland and Puntland, in line with international mandates, as the best way to scale up the humanitarian effort.

But the International Federation's multidisciplinary assessment, published in December, emphasizes that as well as continuing conflict, what pushed the region to the edge in 2008 was that, for the first time, drought is matched by "an important series of external factors" — especially soaring international food prices. This is critical in a region dependent, even in good years, on imports.

"Never before have international markets had such a dramatic impact on the

Working on remote control

Interview with **Mathias Frese**, in charge of ICRC's economic security programmes for Somalia

How would you describe the humanitarian situation in Somalia today?

Many are living in appalling conditions. The only coping mechanisms that I can think of are wood collection and then it is begging.

If you consider the displacement that has taken place and the natural disasters, there are hundreds of thousands of households who need support now. Often the displaced seek refuge with their relatives or their clan. In the Somali traditional system, the host family has to support the displaced family but you can imagine what a burden this poses on the host family.

For the nomadic community in Somalia, the number of animals in a herd has decreased dramatically due to lack of pasture, grazing land and water.

Can you respond in a timely and efficient way despite the volatile security in the field?

Many humanitarian workers have been abducted or killed in cowardly acts. So we are working from Kenya. Ideally, an ICRC expatriate delegate goes to the field with Somali colleagues and people from the Somali Red Crescent Society. But most of the time we have to rely on information

that we collect in reports, through telephone calls or discussions.

During the last five months of 2008, we delivered food aid to nearly half a million people. In most of the regions where ICRC is working, we enjoy excellent cooperation with the National Society on every level and particularly for our large relief interventions. Their experts and volunteers assist us in the assessment, they play a key role in the distribution, they reach out to the communities. They are a very strong pillar of ICRC work in Somalia.

Are you sure aid is not diverted or sold in the local market?

We maintain a permanent dialogue with community leaders or elders. If there was any misappropriation of aid, we would be informed quickly by different channels. We are transparent: the population knows what we are doing, what we are delivering, to whom we are delivering. In addition to that, the people know that when the ICRC assesses a situation of displacement or vulnerable groups, we are not turning our backs on them, but we return with vital assistance.

Interview by **Pedram Yazdi**, ICRC communication delegate for Somalia.



A girl carries her brother as she waits for food distribution in Buge village in Ethiopia's Wolayita region.

food security of the most vulnerable in the Horn of Africa," said Roger Bracke, the leader of the assessment team.

From the point of view of humanitarian donors — possibly weary of pouring money into a region often portrayed as a hopeless basket-case — this, he stresses, is not just "more of the same".

Most urgent humanitarian crisis

The Ethiopian researchers found that food-price inflation in their part of Oromiya was even worse than thought. Over a two-year period to mid-2008, wheat and maize rose 250 per cent and

344 per cent respectively. The price of Ethiopia's staple cereal *teff*, a key humanitarian indicator, rose 245 per cent. But what's very telling is that over the same period, as the condition of cattle deteriorated and more families sold their animals, the price of a steer rose only 9 per cent. This means that selling their assets as a survival strategy has spelt disaster for pastoralist communities.

In Ethiopia nationally, the number of people agreed by the government and the humanitarian community to need emergency food aid rose relentlessly last year, from more than 2 million when the International Federation issued its first appeal for US\$ 1.8 million in May, to 4.6 million in June, to nearly 6.5 million in October — mostly in the southern regions of the country. This figure did not include a further 5.7 million in the government's 'productive safety net programme'.

In January 2009, it was reduced again to just over 4.9 million for 2009, with an additional 1.2 million mothers and children under 5 needing supplementary feeding.

However, Ethiopian officials — presenting the 'inter-agency assessment' for 2009 to donors and diplomats — stressed the humanitarian number could go up again if the March rainy

season is poor or fails altogether.

In Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya and (proportionately by far the worst-affected country) Somalia, the countries included in the International Federation appeal, the United Nations said some 17 million people were in jeopardy in 2008 — preserving the Horn of Africa's reputation as quantitatively the most urgent humanitarian crisis in the world.

Another part of Ethiopia causing concern was the northern Afar region, where last July the BBC's Karen Allen filmed people eating animal feed. Humanitarian needs in Afar, for the moment, may be largely met by the government's safety net. But the region shares a micro-climate and a border with Djibouti, where pastoralists have been driven out of their traditional grazing areas by drought in ever-greater numbers towards the capital.

"Many of Djibouti's pastoralists have effectively become environmental refugees in their own country," said Tarun Sarwal, a British Red Cross recovery delegate on the assessment team. "We're all experienced people and we've seen the worst of the worst poverty in many parts of the world," he added, "but even we struggled to see how these people survive."

Robert Fraser, a water and sanitation specialist who lived there 20 years ago, says Djibouti city is now "completely surrounded by informal settlements,

REUTERS / JOSE GENDON / INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION. COURTESY WWW.ALECTRA.ORG
ALEX WYNTER / INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION



Mahamoud Robleh

ourworld-yourmove.org

Mahamoud Robleh, 60, the headman of Sankhal village in Djibouti, says most women and children are malnourished. "We lost two children yesterday from diarrhoea. Many people are sick in their huts."



inhabited by people who have fled the countryside in desperation. The people we met in the rural hinterland are literally clinging on to what has to be seen as a dying way of life because of the loss of water sources and pasture.”

In Sankhal, for example, a rolling moonscape of scorched, rocky hills some 110 km west of Djibouti city on the Ethiopian border, about 2,000 pastoralist families displaced by drought from even more remote areas are trying to make a new home. The once-nomadic pastoralists are hungry, thirsty and often sick.

“We’ve not seen rain all year,” says the headman, Mahamoud Robleh, 60, as he points his walking stick at the burning sky. A depleted well is one of the villagers’ few sources of water — and again quite obviously unsafe water. The consequences for the very young can be quickly lethal.

“We lost two children yesterday from diarrhoea,” says Robleh. “Many people are sick in their huts.” He adds that most women and children are malnourished.

Dry wadis

Asked about the position of pastoralist women, Muna Abdullahi, 28, secretary general of the local branch of the Djibouti Red Crescent Society, says they face numerous challenges. “From dawn to dusk, they struggle to look for food and water to sustain their families. Instead of the wild fruit they used to pick, the few living trees now provide only firewood. Many people require shelter, blankets, mosquito nets and food.”

The Red Crescent believes pastoralists could, with some help, find alternative livelihoods, according to Abdullahi, such as weaving for women and ‘agro-pastoralism’ for men — small-scale horticulture combined with some livestock, possibly goats, which can bear the arid conditions better.

“We would very much like to do more to help people with water and sanitation,” says Djibouti Red Crescent secretary general, Abdi Khaireh Bouh. “Water is a top priority.”

Moussa Djama Warsama, his deputy, puts it bluntly: “All our *wadis* are dry. People rely on wells that are often shallow, and so contaminated. Digging deeper ones is very expensive.”

Hunger is not an option

So how can the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement jointly help to banish the spectre of famine in the Horn of Africa?

With its appeal for nearly US\$ 100 million, the International Federation

hopes — international donors permitting — to assist 2.2 million beneficiaries in Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia over five years. In late February, a food pipeline was being put into place in the Ethiopian region of Oromiya, with a hub in Negele, to distribute food procured in Ethiopia to 20 distribution points up to 100 kilometres away.

“Hunger is not an option,” says Roger Bracke emphatically. “The people of this region can no longer be allowed to suffer in silence. We can’t just stand by and accept the unacceptable.”

According to the ICRC’s Pascal Mauchle: “The chronic nature of the crisis has completely exhausted people’s ability to cope.”

Yet to some extent the International Federation’s appeal is pre-emptive — and therefore a challenge to fund. By the time television pictures of starving people appear on the evening news, it’s too late: a food-relief operation (even one procuring food locally, as this will take many weeks to organize. Airlifting food, with the possible exception of some specialist baby-formula, is rarely sensible, say logisticians now working on the Horn operation.

It would also be a mistake, according to Bekele Geleta, an avowed believer in ‘early warning, early action’, to paint a wholly negative picture of Ethiopia especially, where the biggest numbers are, to try to unlock donor funds. “I went home for the first time in 17 years recently,” he told *Red Cross Red Crescent*, “and a tremendous amount has been achieved with the development of infrastructure, schools, clinics, communications, electrification.”

And for this, Geleta says, “the Ethiopian government has not been given the recognition it deserves. But the country is suffering severe climate change impacts and like all countries, their capacities are finite. It’s certainly moving forward, but economic restructuring and wealth creation can cause dislocation and unemployment — until that wealth can be successfully reinvested.

“Now the Ethiopian diaspora must mobilize itself to help avert this disaster. We need even less politics and even more development.”

Alex Wynter

Alex Wynter is a freelance journalist and editor based in London.

Food and seeds from the Ethiopian Red Cross Society keep hunger at bay for Anteshe Ganta and her three children.



JOSE GENDON / INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION

IN BRIEF

It's all about saving lives

REUTERS / BAZ RATNER, COURTESY www.alertnet.org

Mushon Vaknin, deputy manager of the Magen David Adom's (MDA) southern district, remembers: "One day I was on my way home, when I heard that Kassams [rockets] had fallen in Sderot. I immediately turned and headed there. Teams were already on the scene, treating the injured. While we were giving first aid there was an alert siren, followed by another one, then another. We quickly got the injured to cover and took shelter ourselves while the missiles landed not far from where we were."

For MDA teams in southern Israel, the three-week military operation in Gaza, which lasted from 27 December to 18 January, brought not only a substantial workload, but also an emotional burden knowing that their



REUTERS / STRINGER, COURTESY www.alertnet.org

homes and families might be in danger. Racheli Ikar-Cohen, a dispatch centre worker, says: "When the siren is heard, the dispatch centre is overwhelmed with calls from frightened civilians and the required operational steps are immediately taken. But your heart and thoughts are with your children. Did they make it to the shelter? Are they frightened?"

These testimonies represent the determination, voluntary spirit and dedication to the challenge of saving lives that the MDA staff demonstrated throughout the Gaza military operation and during the past eight years, during which Israeli communities surrounding the Gaza Strip were subject to regular Kassam rocket attacks.



What protection for medical missions?



At the beginning of February 2009, in Sri Lanka's war-torn, northern Vanni region, more than 300 patients and staff in the Puthukkudiyiruppu hospital were forced to flee after the building was shelled repeatedly over a period of four days. At least nine people were killed and 20 others injured as a result of the shellings. Early in the morning of 4 February, the Ministry of Health personnel who ran the facility determined that it was not safe for patients to remain there any longer and decided to have them leave immediately. An ICRC team, which was already on the premises to support medical staff, helped the doctors and nurses to prepare the patients and to pack emergency medical supplies. Accompanied by 18 ICRC staff members, patients and hospital staff made their way to a community centre in Puttumatalan, in north-eastern Vanni — an area that lacked clean drinking water, which put the displaced patients and medical staff at even greater risk. During the following days, a ferry

flying the ICRC flag finally evacuated about 300 patients from Putumattalan to Trincomalee, outside the combat zone.

In the aftermath of the shelling, some ICRC delegates stayed in the hospital to help the remaining staff build a makeshift structure for the triage of incoming patients. They rebuilt the wall of the women and children's ward, which had been destroyed during the shelling. They also helped patients arriving at or leaving the hospital, and ensured basic hygiene by cleaning the building. ICRC and the Sri Lanka Red Cross Society staff removed dead bodies. If family members could be found, the bodies were returned to them for proper burial in accordance with local tradition.

"Both sides have been reminded several times of their obligation to spare wounded and sick people, as well as medical facilities and their personnel," said ICRC's Monica Zanarelli, deputy head of operations for Sri Lanka. "But this needs to be put into practice in the field."

REUTERS / STRINGER, COURTESY www.alertnet.org



Warming the winter

Volunteers brought warmth to people affected by extremely low temperatures and unexpected ice storms and snowfalls in many parts of Europe. In Bosnia and Herzegovina, temperatures fell as low as minus 25 degrees Celsius, severely affecting more than 10,000 people, according to the Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The Red Cross Red Crescent responded by delivering firewood, stoves, blankets and food parcels to vulnerable groups, including elderly and bed-ridden people living alone, people with disabilities, poor families with young children, single mothers, returnees, refugees and displaced people. Following heavy snow storms across the United Kingdom, British Red Cross volunteers supported ambulance services across England to deal with an increased number of callouts. In Georgia, thousands of people internally displaced by conflict in 2008 — most of whom left all their belongings behind when they fled their homes — received warm winter clothing from the Red Cross Society of Georgia. At the heart of the winter, 1,250 families received new warm coats, boots, socks, sweaters and blankets, essential to protect them from the cold, particularly the children.

Rebuilding hope in China

One year after a terrible earthquake hit China's Sichuan Province, intensive efforts are continuing to rebuild homes and infrastructure. Red Cross Red Crescent projects include the reconstruction of more than 17,000 houses in three townships, agricultural aid, setting up disaster preparedness centres and providing psychosocial support. More than 35,000 volunteers and staff from the Red Cross Society of China were mobilized after the 12 May disaster, which killed some 70,000 people and left 5 million homeless.

Wet Pacific

The Pacific nations of Fiji, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands suffered flooding with loss of life in an unusually severe rainy season. Heavy rains and flooding killed at least 20 people across the region, forced tens of thousands of people from their homes, washed away bridges and houses, damaged water sources and ruined crops. Red Cross staff and volunteers responded by setting up evacuation centres and distributing relief items such as blankets, kitchen sets and clothing. The Fiji Red Cross Society distributed hygiene packs with antibacterial soap, condoms and information in Hindi, Fijian and English on how to curb disease.



In the *favelas* of Rio

In 2008, a particularly virulent epidemic of dengue fever swept through Rio de Janeiro, affecting some 200,000 people. Of these, 200 died, mostly in the *favelas*, those impoverished districts devoid of any proper medical or social infrastructure.

The ICRC, in cooperation with the Brazilian Red Cross, began a campaign in January to raise awareness of dengue in seven Rio *favelas* where, to compound matters, clashes between law enforcement agents and armed gangs are commonplace. The campaign requires the direct participation of *favelas* residents and paramedical personnel. The health promotion sessions also offer the ICRC the chance to gather first-hand accounts of the problems encountered by the population as a result of police operations or the power exercised by armed gangs.

The federal and local authorities are kept informed of Red Cross activities in the *favelas*, as were the police battalions who patrol them. The ICRC also made sure that the armed gangs were aware of and accepted these activities through contacts established in advance with community leaders.

Since 1998, the ICRC has been running a programme aimed at reducing the humanitarian impact of violent situations involving the police, by helping the police integrate international human rights standards and humanitarian principles into their work. The programme has enabled the ICRC to train over 1,000 military police instructors from all over Brazil. Since 2006, the programme has also included the revision of doctrine, police training programmes and procedures governing the use of force and firearms in nine of Brazil's states, including Rio de Janeiro.



IN BRIEF



Hostages freed in Colombia

On three occasions in early February, the ICRC facilitated the release of six people held by the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC). On 31 January, helicopters lent for the purpose by the Brazilian government and emblazoned with the red cross landed in the south of Colombia. On board were ICRC delegates and members

of the organization Colombians for Peace. The following day, a Colombian soldier and three police officers were released by FARC in Caquetá department and transported to Villavicencio, where they were handed over to their families and the authorities. The ICRC's Patricia Danzi, who participated in the operation, recounts: "These men have been in the hands of FARC for a year and a half. When they saw us, their emotions burst forth — you could see how elated they were, and you could imagine all the things that must have been going through their minds when they realized what was happening. Inside the helicopter, some of them became calmer, while others showed their feelings with hugs and kisses." Besides the relentless media pressure, flights by Colombian air force planes over the release zone jeopardized the success of the first operation. The ICRC persuaded the Ministry of Defence to halt the flights.

The two subsequent operations took place without a hitch and in perfect coordination with the parties concerned. On 3 February, the Brazilian helicopter with the same team aboard collected a hostage freed by FARC in Guaviare department and delivered him to Villavicencio, where he was met by his family. Lastly, on 5 February, the ICRC picked up the last hostage in Cauca department and brought him to Cali. This was a former parliamentarian, one of a group of 12 parliamentarians abducted on 11 April 2002 of which he is the sole survivor. The 11 others were killed in June 2007. Their bodies were repatriated by the ICRC in September 2007.

The last mile in Zimbabwe

Early this year, Zimbabwe Red Cross Society staff and volunteers mobilized to protect people affected by hunger and one of the world's largest cholera outbreaks. Seven million people — of the country's approximately 11 million — were in need of food aid early in 2009, according to the World Food Programme, because of failed harvests, the increase in the global price of food and the high rate of inflation. In addition, by the end of January a cholera epidemic had infected more than 60,000 people and killed more than 3,100, according to the World Health Organization. Along with international emergency response units, the Zimbabwe Red Cross worked to control cholera outbreaks with safe water and sanitation, education campaigns to improve hygiene, cholera kits and medication, reaching more than 500,000 people. Meanwhile, Red Cross staff and volunteers distributed cereals, beans, cooking oil, seeds and fertilizer to some of the country's most desperately vulnerable people including people with HIV, and orphans and other children affected by HIV. The aim was to give food every month to more than 250,000 people until the next harvest was ready. But appeals for both operations were underfunded. "We are active in all of the affected areas," said Zimbabwe Red Cross secretary general, Emma Kundishora. "The global Red Cross Red Crescent has rallied behind the people of Zimbabwe and the Zimbabwe Red Cross. And progress is being made. But we need the funds to go the last mile."



Fires sweep Australia

Extremely high temperatures and unpredictable winds fanned bush fires across the Australian state of Victoria, killing more than 180 people and leaving thousands homeless. Many of the dead were trapped in cars as they tried to flee. At 20 relief centres, the Australian Red Cross fed fire fighters, police and the public, treated injuries such as burns and smoke inhalation, gave emotional support and helped people contact their families. People at a relief centre said the speed and ferocity of the fires was "like nothing we had ever seen, it was terrifying". The disaster caused the worst death toll of any fire in Australian history.



In case of emergency

In November 2008, millions of people in the state of California in the United States dropped to the ground in a massive earthquake drill. The American Red Cross was involved in the exercise to prepare people for a large quake along California's San Andreas Fault that could affect 10 million people and injure 50,000. In response, 300 Red Cross disaster volunteers opened mock shelters at ten locations.

RESOURCES

ICRC materials are available from the International Committee of the Red Cross, 19 avenue de la Paix, CH-1202 Geneva, Switzerland. www.icrc.org. International Federation materials are available from the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, P.O. Box 372, CH-1211 Geneva 19, Switzerland. www.ifrc.org.

Red Cross Red Crescent magazine is also available online at: www.redcross.int.



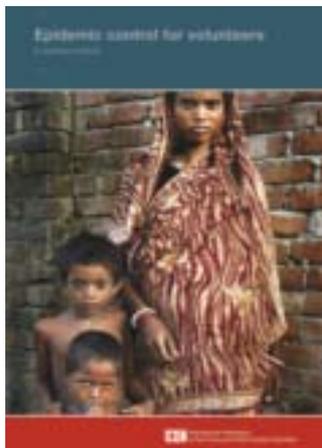
BOOKS

Enhancing protection for civilians in armed conflict and other situations of violence

ICRC, 2008

This brochure explains how the ICRC works to protect civilians in armed conflict and other situations of violence, proposing a step-by-step, multidisciplinary approach. The first chapter focuses on the preliminary analysis of protection problems affecting a given population. The second introduces a classification of ICRC protection activities for civilians. The third and final chapter covers issues of interest to organizations that deal with protection data.

Available in English. Sfr. 2.



is a priority for the Red Cross Red Crescent. How can volunteers quickly and efficiently deal with respiratory infections, HIV, diarrhoeal diseases, tuberculosis, malaria and measles? This manual and toolkit is designed for National Societies.

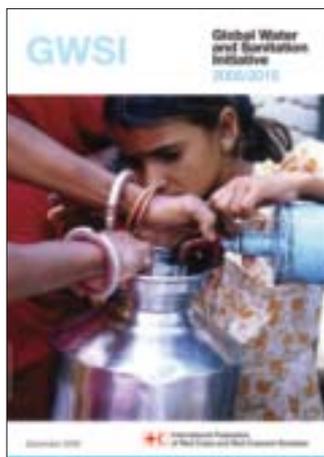
Available in English.

Global Water and Sanitation Initiative 2005/2015

International Federation, 2008

This eight-page leaflet outlines the approach to reducing poverty and mortality through improved water and sanitation projects around the world. It explains how the initiative plans to reach 7.5 million people by 2015.

Available in English, French and Spanish.



Epidemic control for volunteers

A training manual

International Federation, 2008

Preventing and managing the communicable diseases that kill more than 14 million people a year

HIV/AIDS field guide: a planning and practice guide to integrating HIV/AIDS into the ICRC's health work

ICRC, 2008

This field guide is designed to assist in responding to HIV/AIDS as an integral part of health activities. It provides guidance and decision-making tools to help decide what to do among specific populations in a given context, and guidance on how to integrate HIV/AIDS into core health activities.

Available in English. Sfr. 20.50, multimedia CD-Rom included.

Relief ERU Field Manual

International Federation, September 2008
This manual draws on 80 years' experience of humanitarian assistance to people affected by disaster. It contains best practice and guidance for relief emergency response units before and after deployment.

Available in English.

Global Shelter Programme Plan 2009/2010

International Federation, 2008

The International Federation's Global Shelter Programme was set up in 2006 to scale up capacity and



VIDEOS

Panorama 08

ICRC, 2008

Panorama 08 shows the horrendous toll that armed conflict inflicts — threatening lives and livelihoods, forcing people to flee their homes and separating families. This film highlights the ICRC's work to assist victims of armed conflict and to promote international humanitarian law, ensuring that people trapped on the world's front lines are protected from harm.

DVD available in English, French and German.



The Convention on Cluster Munitions: Time to Act

ICRC, 2008

Cluster munitions have been a persistent problem for decades. These weapons have killed or injured tens of thousands of civilians in war-affected countries. In



May 2008, more than 100 states adopted the Convention on Cluster Munitions, which prohibits the use, development, production, stockpiling and transfer of such munitions. It also requires states parties to destroy their stockpiles, clear remnants and assist victims. This DVD provides an overview of the cluster munitions problem, the main provisions of the Convention and the steps required to meet its commitments.

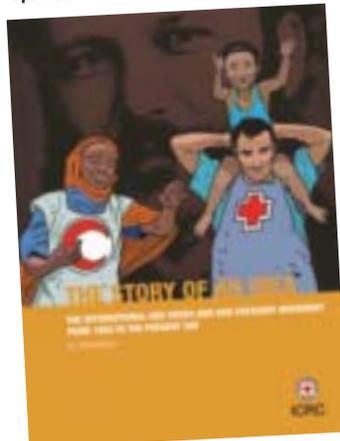
DVD available in English, French and Spanish, includes PDF documents.

The story of an idea – animation of the comic book

ICRC, 2008

This animation brings to life the story of the creation of the Red Cross, Red Crescent Movement and its history to date. The comic strip was created by renowned French artist Jean Giraud, alias Moebius.

Available in Arabic, English, French and Spanish.

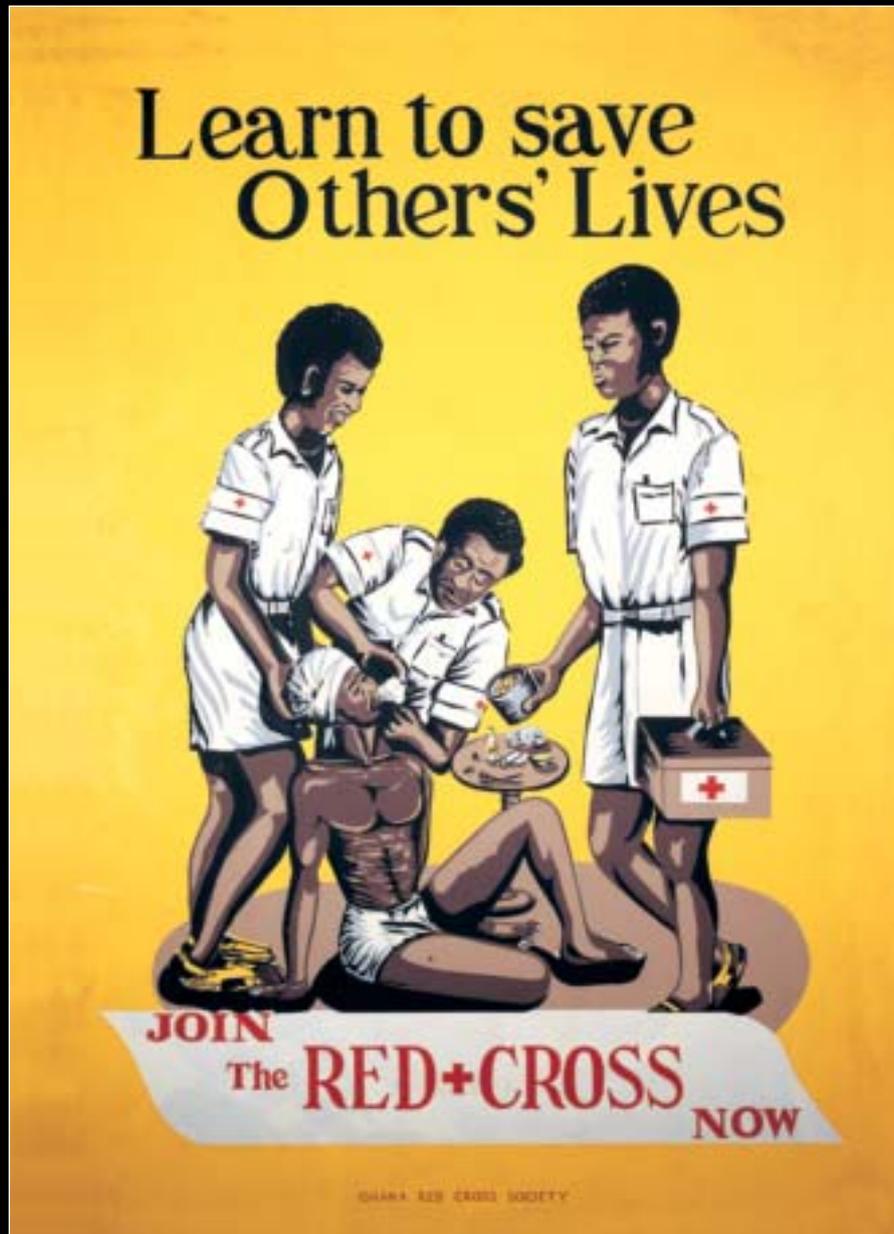


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From the archives



"Learn to save others' lives: Join the Red Cross now."

Ghana Red Cross Society. 1940–1960.

Collection of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Museum, Geneva, Switzerland.