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Red Cross Red Crescent

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The high price of hunger

Investing in food security via the local economy

Pakistan's perilous floods

A glimpse beneath the surface of the 'superflood'

Hope on two wheels

Intrepid bikers bring aid deep into DR Congo's jungles

Volunteer values



THE MAGAZINE OF THE INTERNATIONAL
RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT

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 (IFRC) and the National Societies.



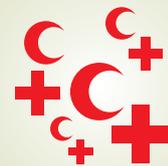
ICRC

The International Committee of the Red Cross 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.



International Federation of
Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

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 IFRC 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.

The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement

is guided by seven Fundamental Principles:

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

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.

Volunteer values

These words (right) speak volumes about the motivations, commitment and courage of volunteers around the world — as well as the rewards of giving one's time to help others.

As we prepare for 2011, the anniversary of the tenth international Year of the Volunteer, *Red Cross Red Crescent* magazine reports on the contributions volunteers make and on efforts, within the Movement and without, to calculate that contribution in economic and social terms. While we all know the contribution is tremendous — especially in times of crisis — it's rare in this world of financial stress, global consumerism and geopolitical conflict that simple acts of kindness are afforded concrete value.

That needs to change. It's time world leaders recognize that worth is not only measured in taxable income, commodity exports or consumer spending. As leaders such as United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon have recognized, volunteers play a key role in achieving the Millennium Development Goals (reducing poverty, preventing and eradicating disease, reducing child mortality and improving maternal health — to name just four of the goals).

In this and coming issues of *Red Cross Red Crescent*, you'll see examples of volunteers doing just that: preventing maternity-related deaths in Pakistan; reducing polio in West Africa and Afghanistan; boosting local agrarian economies in drought- and conflict-stricken areas; and delivering aid and healthcare to children and other vulnerable people.

Many of these volunteers regularly put their health, livelihoods, family life — and their lives — on the line. So how can we better support, protect, prepare, train, motivate and retain them? Are we doing enough? Volunteers interviewed in this issue's cover story address some of these concerns, including the economic value of their work, the need for insurance or other support, the importance of neutrality and the sacrifices they make.

Along with profiles of volunteers (such as our interview with Haitian nurse Germaine Pierre-Louis on page 8), we will tackle many of these issues in a series of stories to run throughout the coming year. As part of this series, we put the question to you on page 8: what should the Movement do to better support, motivate and protect volunteers? On page 23, we ask for your opinions about human trafficking: how should the Movement respond? Tell us what you think about these and other stories — and we will publish a collection of your views in a future issue. As we take on more issues of discussion and debate within the Movement, we will also begin to publish your letters. Please send us your views, comments and letters via rcrc@ifrc.org or at the address on page 3.

Thank you in advance for all your contributions.

Malcolm Lucard
Editor
Red Cross Red Crescent

"The value of this work is uncountable. If I help one person, that one person goes on to help more people and it continues like a chain."

Shuang Shuang, a volunteer who provides assistance and counselling to HIV-positive people in Fu Shun, China, with support from the Red Cross Society of China

"I feel safe volunteering with the Red Crescent. It does not get involved with all this politics business and that is its strength. This is why I will continue volunteering."

Hashmat Ali, volunteer for the Pakistan Red Crescent Society

"Every morning, I wake up saying to myself that I cannot accept anyone's suffering."

Germaine Pierre-Louis, volunteer for the Haitian Red Cross Society and one of three recipients of the 2010 Florence Nightingale award

"You cannot have as much happiness as when you help a person suffering and he says 'Thank you'."

Fawwad Sherwani, volunteer for the Pakistan Red Crescent Society



Mariko Kakiz/ICRC

Clean water for Kyrgyzstan

Some 7,000 people in the village of Monok and about 10,000 individuals living in the Kumarjan Datka area of the city of Osh now have better access to clean drinking water. "By the end of the year, we intend to bring safe drinking water to another 22,000 people," said Aleksandr Mailyan, an ICRC water engineer based in Osh. Since violence erupted in the country in June, the ICRC has stepped up detainee visits, helped with shelter reconstruction and worked with authorities to improve conditions for detainees.

Somalia: Situation critical

Hundreds of thousands of people who have fled fighting in the Somali capital Mogadishu and other towns since 2007 are living in increasingly harsh conditions. In cooperation with the Somali Red Crescent Society, the ICRC distributed food to more than 55,000 people. "People with virtually no belongings are coping through petty trade or by growing crops on small patches of land, and also thanks to the help of resident communities," said Pascal Mauchle, head of the ICRC delegation for Somalia.

First aid in the name of rock

About 180 Hellenic Red Cross volunteers came from all over Greece to provide first aid and rescue services to some 80,000 people attending a live concert by the rock group U2 — the country's biggest music event of the year. Seven brigades of volunteers were supported by 10 doctors and 12 medically equipped vehicles. Madonna, AC/DC and the Eurovision song contest have also enjoyed rock-star treatment from Hellenic Red Cross volunteers.

Humanitarian index

89,000: Number of litres of water distributed by the ICRC every day in September to more than 4,300 people displaced by fighting in south-west Yemen.

600,000 to 800,000: Annual number of victims trafficked across international borders worldwide, according to the United States Department of State.

75: Percentage of the IFRC Pakistan appeal raised as of end September.

2 billion: Total United Nations appeal, in US dollars, for Pakistan flood relief launched mid-September.

500 million: Amount in US dollars raised by the United Nations for Pakistan flood relief as of 30 September.

1.3 billion: Funding gap in US dollars that the Global Polio Eradication Initiative says it needs for its 2010–2012 programmes and to meet its goal of eliminating the disease.

22 billion: Estimated number of plastic water bottles thrown away each year worldwide.

Quotes of note

"If joy could kill, I'd be dead already."

15-year-old **Emmanuel**, one of 15 child soldiers who went home to his family as part of ICRC's Restoring Family Links Programme in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

"I used to run an NGO for poor children, but now I am dependent on the NGOs here for water, shelter and healthcare."

Manes Barthelemy, a 38-year-old pastor and former headmaster of a church school in Port-au-Prince, Haiti (see page 26)

Indonesia hit by dual disasters

Back-to-back disasters shook Indonesia in late October. An earthquake triggered a tsunami on the Mentawai islands off western Sumatra and, at the same time, Mount Merapi began spewing clouds of hot ash and lava.

The 3-metre-high tsunami left at least 449 dead, nearly 100 missing and more than 400 injured. Hundreds of houses were washed away or damaged, and some 15,000 people displaced. The volcano, meanwhile, killed at least 35 people, largely as a result of burning ash, and left more than 70,000 displaced.

The Indonesian Red Cross (PMI) responded by providing medical care, establishing field kitchens and dispatching tents and relief items. Tragically, Tukur Rajitno, a PMI volunteer with a medical team, was unable to escape the hot ash and died while helping people evacuate people from a nearby village.

World AIDS Day: Movement focuses on harm reduction

Denying injecting drug users life-saving services could trigger a public health disaster, according to IFRC reports released on World AIDS Day, 1 December 2010. The IFRC urged governments to establish policies that respect human rights and support harm reduction.

Repressive laws, imprisonment and harassment drive many drug users underground, away from health and social services, according to the IFRC. This makes providing HIV prevention, treatment, care and support almost impossible and exposes the general population to more harm. Worldwide, about 3 million injecting drug users live with HIV.

Patients at risk in Gaza

Daily power cuts in the Gaza Strip are making healthcare even more precarious — particularly in places such as the haemodialysis department in Gaza's Shifa hospital.

"The power often goes off while we're receiving treatment," explains 63-year-old patient Khader Saqr. "All the machines stop until the generator comes on. Without power, our blood stops circulating." On average, the Gaza Strip is deprived of electricity for seven hours a day.

"Years of armed conflict and occupation have made it extremely difficult just to keep up with routine maintenance on the generating equipment and electricity network, let alone to increase capacity to meet the growing needs," explains Palina Asgeirsdottir, ICRC's health programme manager in Gaza.

The only power station in the Gaza Strip was partially destroyed by Israeli shelling in 2006. The closure and the ban on bringing in building materials have made repairs near impossible, while disagreements between the Palestinian Authority and Hamas over payment for the power station's fuel have compounded the problem.



Cécilia Goin/ICRC

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World leaders are counting on volunteers to help attain the Millennium Development Goals. But why then is the volunteer contribution so grossly under-counted? What can we do to support them?

Volunteer values

WHEN THE TORRENTIAL monsoon rains caused the Indus to break its banks and rage through northern Pakistan, Fawwad Sherwani, a 36-year-old Pakistan Red Crescent Society (PRCS) volunteer from Karachi, immediately joined the relief teams.

Working both in PRCS camps and in the Karachi 'control room', Sherwani helped assess the needs on the ground and communicate that to headquarters. He helped establish routes to get aid to victims via boats, jeeps and helicopters.

An experienced aid worker who has responded to earthquakes, suicide bombings and cyclones, Sherwani doesn't think too much about the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) when he puts on his Red Crescent vest and cap and rushes off to an emergency. He just likes to help people and, even though he doesn't get paid, it's his job, what he was trained for.

But as 2011 (the tenth anniversary of the first Year of the Volunteer) begins, global health and political leaders say the consistent efforts of volunteers such as Sherwani are critical to achieving global Millennium Development Goals, a series of eight development targets that governments have pledged to meet by 2015 (see box).

Take the case of polio. Health experts say that volunteer efforts — including the extensive networks of National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in countries such as Afghanistan and Nigeria — are one reason why the disease's eradication is now in sight. The network allows vaccination programmes

VOLUNTEER VALUES

The first in a series of articles on volunteerism that will appear in this magazine during 2011, the tenth anniversary of the Year of the Volunteer.

to go the 'last mile,' reaching deep into communities that are often hard for outsiders to access. During a measles campaign in Mozambique's Nampula province, for example, Red Cross volunteers helped achieve a 97 per cent coverage rate, compared to 88 per cent in other rural areas (a critical difference when fighting diseases that develop resistance and spread quickly).

Volunteers are key

With only four years left before the 2015 MDG deadline, there's still a long way to go. Even with polio, and the advances against measles, eradication is far from assured. On issues such as poverty and children's healthcare, there are complex obstacles — natural disaster, desertification, armed conflict, global warming, urban violence, chronic food insecurity, financial crisis — that gets in the way.

With insufficient levels of government and private sector resources available and many challenges in accessing vulnerable communities, many are turning to volunteers as a key resource. As UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said recently, "Achieving the Millennium Development Goals will require the engagement of countless millions of people through volunteer action."

Because they are rooted in their local communities, Red Cross and Red Crescent volunteers are able to bring vaccination, emergency relief or critical drug treatments even to areas of armed violence (Baluchistan province in Pakistan, in Somalia, or in remote areas of Afghanistan, where Red Crescent



volunteers help deliver polio vaccine during pre-arranged 'tranquility days').

Volunteers also have a social impact, which is harder to quantify, but which contributes to community stability and recovery, particularly during conflict. A volunteer for the Red Cross of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Patrick Zaboninka Mayara travels by bicycle and on foot to deliver Red Cross messages that keep families in touch, sometimes reuniting children and parents separated by fighting.

In Beirut, Lebanon, Mohammad 'Frisco' Mansour teaches other youth volunteers how to use games and simulations to bring international humanitarian law and humanitarian norms to life for 8- to 18-year-olds. "They learn, through these games, that war needs to have limits and that humanitarian values are to be respected," says the 25-year-old Lebanese Red Cross volunteer, speaking of the youth who attend the seminars. "Otherwise the pain will be too great to suffer and the price too high to pay."

Often, volunteers give even when they themselves have their own needs. Volunteer Morlai Fofanah dedicates time to promoting non-violence and tolerance in rural communities in southern Sierra Leone. After a road accident damaged his spine while returning from a mission, this first-aid team member now does much of his volunteer work with the aid of crutches or a wheelchair.

Gaining access

Volunteers are also able to reach into pockets of poverty or vulnerable communities in developed

Volunteers for the Nigerian Red Cross Society administer oral polio vaccine in communities where it is desperately needed. It only takes two drops of the vaccine to ensure immunization against polio.

IFRC

Millennium Development Goals

- 1 Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger
- 2 Achieve universal primary education
- 3 Promote gender equality and empower women
- 4 Reduce child mortality
- 5 Improve maternal health
- 6 Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases
- 7 Ensure environmental sustainability
- 8 Develop a global partnership for development

or transitional countries. In the quiet countryside village of R6, for example, just outside Stockholm, Swedish Red Cross volunteer Christina Lindholm organizes summer camps for caregivers whose partners are living with dementia, Alzheimer's disease, aphasia and multiple sclerosis. The camps' activities and its social network contribute to improving health and reducing the vulnerability of both patients and those caring for them, according to studies by the Swedish Red Cross.

In the streets of Shenyang in north-east China, meanwhile, volunteers for a group called Fireflies (supported by the Red Cross Society of China) make house calls to HIV-infected patients who often cannot get healthcare through normal channels. "We can't get operations in ordinary hospitals — very few places will provide treatment to HIV-positive people," says Xiao Jie, who is himself HIV-positive. "People look at HIV sufferers as bad. They think that good people will not get this disease."

Around the world, volunteers such as Fawwad, Christina, Xiao, Mohammad and Morlai are quietly having a powerful impact towards achieving the MDGs. But if we are to rely on these volunteers to help do what governments and the market economy cannot, what are we going to do to support and protect this vast, unpaid workforce? And if the volunteers' efforts are so important, why is their contribution not even counted in most national measures of economic productivity and development? ■

If it isn't counted, does it really count?



LIKE HIS VOLUNTEER colleagues in the HIV-support group Fireflies, Xiao Jie isn't in it for money, or for any particular global agenda other than fighting HIV/AIDS in his community. When asked, however, he agrees his volunteer efforts for the group have a very real and quantifiable value: at least 1,000 renminbi (US\$ 150) a month.

Like many volunteers, Xiao Jie is unsure about whether this kind of work should be reimbursed. On the one hand, it should be done by volunteers because they really want to do the work. But then again, people should be paid as it helps the government do its job.

Xiao Jie is not the only one to reflect on volunteer values these days. Indeed, there is a growing effort around the world to better quantify the volunteer contribution, which is largely left out of most countries' gross domestic product (GDP) calculations or other key economic and development indicators.

"The problem is that often what isn't counted, doesn't count," says Megan Haddock, project coordinator at the Center for Civil Society Studies at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, USA. "In the traditional statistical model, the contribution volunteers make to the economy is absolutely zero. It's simply not being accounted for."

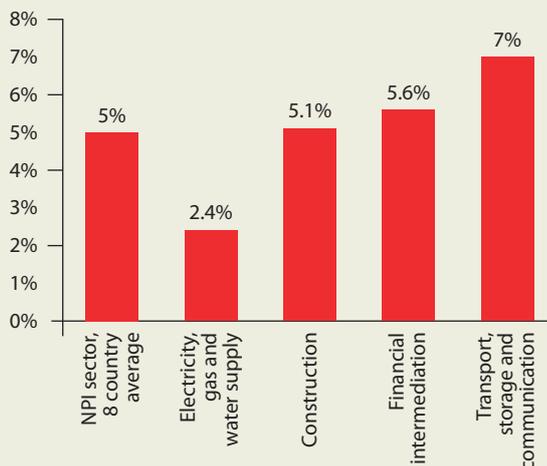
If economists, politicians, the media and average citizens don't understand the contributions of volunteers or the input of non-profit organizations, to which

they often belong, then support and legal protection for those efforts will remain weak, she says.

A recent Johns Hopkins study, based on data from 37 countries, found that indeed the volunteer contribution was grossly underestimated. Roughly 140 million people, or 12 per cent of the population in these countries, engage in some volunteer activity, according to the research. Together, they represent nearly 21 million full-time workers, making an economic contribution worth roughly US\$ 400 billion annually. They also make up some 45 per cent of the non-profit workforce.

This volunteerism takes many forms. Mexico, for example, has a long tradition of informal volunteerism — it just doesn't call it that. Voluntary acts of 'solidar-

➔ Studies of eight countries in eastern Europe show that the non-profit institutions (NPI) sector, which relies heavily on volunteers, makes up roughly 5 per cent of these countries' economic activity — more than the electric and gas sector, and just less than the construction sector. From the report *Measuring Civil Society and Volunteering*, Johns Hopkins University, Center for Civil Society Studies.





ity', as they are called, are simply considered part of life; they usually occur informally within communities and not in connection with any particular non-profit agency (though much of it may be church related).

Added up, however, the time spent by people doing various voluntary acts of solidarity comprises roughly 1.4 per cent of Mexico's GDP, according to Jacqueline Butcher Rivas, who studies volunteerism in Mexico. Herself a volunteer, Butcher says a better understanding of this contribution could leverage greater investment and legal protection for volunteers. "This sector is greatly under-appreciated," she says.

During the 2011 tenth anniversary of the Year of the Volunteer, the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement is hoping to highlight these issues. While it's generally believed that its volunteer network gives the Red Cross Red Crescent unparalleled access, the Movement itself has not fully quantified the social and economic value of its volunteers — though many studies commissioned in recent years have tackled related issues.

In January 2011, the IFRC expects to release a study to help fill that knowledge gap. Following the methodology developed by Johns Hopkins and the International Labour Organization, the study surveys a representative sample of National Societies on the financial, economic and social contributions of volunteers.

In an era of increased competition for volunteers and their time, the IFRC hopes the data can be used

Members of an all-volunteer group supported by the Red Cross Society of China distribute condoms, lubricant and information on HIV at a local park in Fu Shun city, in the north-eastern province of Liaoning. Robert Few/IFRC

to help National Societies garner more resources for volunteer efforts, inspire and recruit more volunteers, improve volunteer support systems and convince governments to enact stronger legal protections for volunteers.

The humanitarian shield

According to a 2009 report by UN Volunteers, *Law and Policies Affecting Volunteerism since 2001*, there have been about 70 new national laws or policies enacted to encourage or regulate volunteering in the last ten years. Burkina Faso, for example, created policies to promote volunteerism as a way to reduce unemployment through professional training and national service.

"There's been a lot of progress," says one of the report's authors, Catherine Shea, vice president of the International Center for Not-for-Profit Law, based in Washington DC.

In 2001, when the Year of the Volunteer was launched, a lack of enabling legislation at the national level often stymied volunteerism. "Several countries' employment and minimum wage laws failed to distinguish between volunteers and employees, making unpaid volunteer activity technically illegal," the report notes.

The problem now is that not all the new laws are comprehensive or strong. In some cases, good laws are on the books, but the government is not acting. "There's still a way to go," says Shea. "It's really important what happens after the law is enacted. Does the government really implement?"

Consider the case of Bolivia's 2005 national volunteer legislation, which also highlights the dangers volunteers face. Violent political unrest in 2002 and 2003 led to the "mobilization of volunteers with Bolivia's Red Cross and fire and rescue squads", the UN report notes.

"At one violent protest, a volunteer fire and rescue worker, Daniel Manrique, was shot in the face. As a volunteer, Manrique had no insurance, no health coverage and no way to pay for the multiple medical procedures he needed."

The resulting outcry led to demands for a national law, which gave volunteers' extensive rights and protection. The effort lost momentum after subsequent elections and the provisions were never fully adopted.

The irony is that even while working to provide victims with shelter or basic medical services, the volunteers themselves don't have access to healthcare or health insurance. In many countries, the cost is prohibitive or national laws don't provide the framework for affordably insuring non-profit organizations.

While the IFRC's volunteering policy calls for National Societies to provide "appropriate insurance

protection”, the approaches vary widely throughout the Movement. The Swedish Red Cross provides accident insurance for its 40,000 volunteers, while other National Societies insure volunteers through an IFRC programme. When the earthquake hit Haiti in January, for example, the Haitian Red Cross Society was already preparing to adopt insurance for its volunteers. The IFRC then provided the insurance as part of its emergency response.

“The important thing”, says volunteer specialist Stefan Agerhem, seconded to the IFRC by the Swedish Red Cross, “is that if something goes wrong, the volunteer’s National Society takes care of him or her, whether it is through an insurance system or providing psychosocial support.”

To pay or not to pay

The issue is complicated by the fact that many volunteers are in fact paid per diems or small stipends aimed at defraying transportation expenses or a meal during the workday. In times of emergency, such as the Haiti earthquake, many volunteers are paid a small daily or weekly wage.

“For a major relief operation where you need to have plenty of hands available to do relief work, instead of just relying on a volunteer for a few extra hours a week, you need to engage the volunteers more seriously,” says Agerhem.

In this case, it’s critical that Movement actors understand and follow local labour laws. In recent years, there have been a few cases in which volunteers have taken their National Societies to court for not paying entitlements such as pension funds. Ac-

Volunteer your opinion

What should the Movement do to better motivate, protect and support its volunteers? What’s your opinion? We’d like to know. Send your response to rrcc@ifrc.org

cident insurance might also be mandatory to people on the payroll.

The pay issue presents a dilemma, however. On the one hand, it potentially undermines the spirit of true volunteerism. On the other, it’s perhaps unreasonable to expect people to work 12- or 18-hour days bringing relief to others if the volunteers have no means of support.

As Haitian nurse and Red Cross volunteer Germaine Pierre-Louis (see profile) notes, it’s unacceptable to ask volunteers to spend all day working on food, health and shelter for others, when they themselves have no place to sleep.

“During the earthquake,” says Pierre-Louis, “the volunteers worked just as well as the professional humanitarian workers,” bringing the wounded to health centres and distributing food, hygiene kits and water. “They did a colossal job.” Pierre-Louis was frustrated that, at times, she had to lobby Movement colleagues simply to get tents for some of those volunteers, who themselves had also lost everything in the quake.

Dangerous work

In the end, no amount of laws, insurance or pay will protect or compensate volunteers for the dangers they face. Considering the environments in which many volunteers work, deaths are relatively rare. But they do occur.

In May 2009, for example, an Afghanistan Red Crescent volunteer was killed along with 13 others during an air strike by coalition forces reportedly attempting to target Taliban fighters. In March 2009, three Mo-

VOLUNTEER PROFILE

Germaine Pierre-Louis

Haitian Red Cross Society

The building housing the meeting room in the Saint-Michel Hospital in Jacmel, in south-eastern Haiti, is one of the few hospital buildings that did not collapse during the earthquake of 12 January 2010. In the room, 25 young people — some of them Haitian Red Cross volunteers, others members of youth organizations — are about to do a course on cyclone prevention with Germaine Pierre-Louis, a well-known nurse and volunteer in the Jacmel region. “Good morning,” she says briskly. “Thank you for coming this morning in the midst of the hurricane season. You must be ready to raise people’s awareness.”

Professionally, the 58-year-old nurse is head of the Ministry of Public Health’s epidemiological and statistical services in Haiti’s south-eastern department. In her spare time, she is a volunteer with the Haitian Red Cross, vice-president of the National Society and president of the south-east regional branch. She, along with two other Haitians — Michaëlle Colin, head nurse at the Port-au-Prince Sanatorium, and Jude Célorge, a Haitian Red Cross volunteer in Martissant, one of the capital’s poorest neighbourhoods

👤 Germaine Pierre-Louis, a volunteer and nurse for the Haitian Red Cross Society, looks out at where Jacmel’s former health facility once stood. Olga Miltcheva/ICRC

— were awarded the prestigious Florence Nightingale Medal in 2010 for their selfless work during the earthquake. They are the first three Haitians to receive this award since it was established in 1920.

An impact on MDGs?

In Jacmel, Haitian Red Cross volunteers have also conducted courses not only on hurricane preparedness, but also on HIV/



Volunteer index

400 billion: Estimated economic contribution in US dollars of volunteers in 37 countries studied as part of global research by Johns Hopkins University.

10 billion: Contribution in US dollar value of the time volunteers have spent towards community polio eradication and vaccination campaigns globally, according to the United Nations.

78: The percentage by which deaths due to measles dropped from 2000 to 2008 due to improved vaccination, assisted by Movement volunteers.

1.4: The economic value of formal and informal volunteering in Mexico, expressed as a percentage of Mexico's GDP.

45: Percentage of the global non-profit workforce made up by volunteers, according to a study of 37 countries by Johns Hopkins University.



Zimbabwe Red Cross Society volunteers were killed by an angry mob that mistakenly thought the aid workers were poisoning a water supply. And in January 2010, a volunteer with the Kenya Red Cross Society, Michael Wafula Sululu, was shot and killed by a policeman as he responded to the scene of a car crash. The policeman was subsequently charged with murder.

In theory, existing national, local or international laws should have protected these volunteers. In reality, there are no guarantees.

AIDS prevention and good hygiene practices. These training sessions, aimed at young people, are designed to help preserve the living standards of the already impoverished population.

Do they help achieve the Millennium Development Goals of reducing poverty and reducing disease? "Our education work enables people to protect their goods and livelihoods," says Pierre-Louis. "Thanks to such preventive activities, disease and accidents can be avoided. This maintains the status quo but unfortunately does not decrease poverty."

To genuinely reduce poverty, you have to develop economic activity, for example, by assisting small businesses such as rice and coal vendors, some of whom are also living with HIV/AIDS.

Like most volunteers, Pierre-Louis is motivated by immediate needs. After the January earthquake, for example, she immediately organized search-and-rescue and relief activities for the survivors even though her own house was destroyed. What drives her? "Every morning, I wake up saying to myself that I cannot accept anyone's suffering."

— By **Jean-Yves Clemenzo**

⌚ Clockwise from top right: Mohammad 'Frisco' Mansour teaches schoolchildren and teenage trainers to respect humanitarian values.

Lebanese Red Cross

Hashmat Ali stands outside a clinic where he volunteers in Pakistan's Swat Valley. Deena Guzder

Volunteer Patrick Zaboninka Mayara delivers Red Cross messages deep into DR Congo's forests. Pedram Yazdi/ICRC

New laws and insurance will only go so far. According to some volunteers, one of the most important things the Movement can do to protect volunteers is to remain steadfast to principles of neutrality and impartiality.

In the highly polarized Swat valley of Pakistan, where military forces and Taliban insurgents vie for power, volunteer Hashmat Ali says that the Red Cross Red Crescent's commitment to neutrality is its greatest asset.

"I feel safe volunteering with the Red Crescent," explains Ali. "It does not get involved with all this politics business and that is its strength. This is why I will continue volunteering."

Ali first encountered the Red Crescent after the 2005 earthquake when he helped German and Netherlands Red Cross workers distribute aid in far-flung mountain hamlets. Continued collaboration led to the development of a medical clinic that now serves 100 to 150 patients each day in the Swat valley. According to Ali, the biggest contribution of Red Cross Red Crescent staff and volunteers in Swat is decreasing the maternal mortality rate — which relates to the fifth MDG.

Ultimately, most volunteers say they will do the job — insurance, laws, tents, stipends or not. For Fawwad Sherwani, the call to volunteerism is not a rational calculation based on economic goals or global development agendas. "It's a feeling," he explains. "You cannot have as much happiness as when you help a person suffering and he says 'Thank you!'" ■

This story was reported by **Deena Guzder** in Pakistan, **Jean-Yves Clemenzo** in Haiti, **Robert Few** in China and **Malcolm Lucard** in Geneva.

Movement efforts to stem the food crisis in Niger focus on the economic roots of the crisis: lack of cash and sky-high prices.

THE MARKETS IN the capital Niamey and other Niger villages are packed with food and vendors. Women with calabash bowls set up outdoor stalls and sell millet and other grains. Dried fish are set out under the sub-Saharan sun while large silver platters display a variety of food choices — manioc powder, local roots, spices and more.

But the market is not where Mariama* goes to find food for her family. Instead, she wakes up every morning at 06:00 and walks to the millet fields surrounding her village in northern Niger. There, she paces the ground row by row and searches for stalks of millet that farmers have left behind. Whatever she finds will feed herself and her family. Her husband died less than two years ago and she has no work and no money.

This widow's story is not uncommon in northern Niger, a country that is facing a severe food security crisis. Although Red Cross workers in the West African country say there is food for sale in the markets, the droughts that devastated the recent harvest mean most people in Niger cannot afford to buy the food brought in from neighbouring countries.

The price of a 50-kilogram sack of millet grain has reached nearly 13,000 CFA francs (US\$ 25). "That's double the normal price of 6,000 CFA in October 2009," says Ciaran Cierans, head of the Irish Red Cross's sub-delegation in Niamey.

This year's poor harvest also means those prices are beyond the reach of many farming families, notes Aita Sarr-Cisse, a food security officer for the IFRC in Senegal. She recalls one farmer's story: "This year he kept all the harvest in his grain bins to feed his family. They did not have enough to sell, so now that there is nothing left, they have no money to buy food."

Millions endangered

With more than 80 per cent of the country's population relying on agriculture, the combination of

The high price of hunger



drought, poor harvests and high food prices have put nearly 10 million people in the region at risk. According to a national survey published by Niger's government, nearly 17 per cent of children under the age of 5 are suffering from acute malnutrition — an increase of 42 per cent over the same period last year.

Amadou Tidjane Amadou, communications officer with the Red Cross Society of Niger, says the poor harvests have also meant a lack of work in the villages. "Before the people sold their animals, but now with the crisis all of the sheep and goats are dead. Without this usual source of income, people in the villages are suffering."

This is why the Red Cross Society of Niger and the Irish Red Cross, with funding from the British Red Cross, are implementing cash-for-work and cash-transfer programmes to inject much-needed money into local markets.

One cash-for-work programme that ran during June and July employed 5,000 women in Tanout to build up and rehabilitate the reservoirs that collect and store run-off water that can then be used for livestock and crops.

Cash for cattle

In both Niger and Mali, the ICRC is reaching out to cattle herders who have lost, or are in danger of losing, their emaciated livestock. The droughts threatened nearly 70 per cent of cattle in the region, so the ICRC delegation based in Niamey developed a destocking and veterinary programme both to make herds healthier and to buy cattle from herders at pre-drought prices. The animals were then slaughtered on the spot and the meat distributed to villagers.

"It's rare that you are paid for your cow, and on top of that you are given the meat and even the hide," Moussa Ag Minar, the mayor of Gossi, told an ICRC video crew recently. "The farmers are delighted."

With many herders liquidating their stocks, the emaciated cattle brought into the Gossi market had fetched as little as 38 euros; the ICRC programme paid closer to 200 euros, which allowed the herders to reinvest in their stocks, feed their cattle, buy food or save for better times.

"There was no market for the animals, because they were either not able to sell their animals at all or forced to sell them at very low prices," says the ICRC's economic security coordinator based in Niamey, Dragana Rankovic. So far, the programme has helped more than 10,000 cattle herders in Mali

➔ Animals with a chance of survival receive veterinary care and feed as part of joint efforts between the ICRC and veterinary services of Niger and Mali. ICRC



and Niger to purchase and distribute roughly 38,000 head of cattle.

Next year, Rankovic says the plan is to implement the vaccination element on a larger scale, reduce the destocking element and provide training for the livestock owners on basic animal health and food issues. In the meantime, the ICRC and other aid organizations are also providing direct food relief.

Tackling drought drip by drip

By tackling food security with economic measures, the idea is to stabilize the markets and give more people the chance to buy food. But it won't be easy. The food security situation is complicated by increasing desertification, inter-communal clashes between farmers and herders competing for land and scarce water — as well as armed banditry.

Everyone here knows these problems will not go away anytime soon and that long-term development is crucial. "For us, the main thing is water," says Cierans, adding that the Irish Red Cross is now working on projects involving drip irrigation, which saves water by allowing it to drip slowly to roots of plants. "Besides the drip irrigation methods, we are also constructing new wells."

The idea is to create more stable harvests. But in case crop failures continue, the Irish Red Cross and others are working on another way to stabilize food supplies and local markets: the creation of cereal banks in which grains are stored during plentiful harvests, and withdrawn during periods of drought. "During the harvest period, prices will drop," Cierans says. "Then when the prices go up next year during the dry season, the farmers should be able to go back to the cereal bank and buy the cereal back at a lower price." ■

By Ricci Shryock

Ricci Shryock is a freelancer writer and photographer based in Dakar, Senegal.

*Name has been changed.

"Before, the people sold their animals, but now with the crisis all of the sheep and goats are dead. Without this usual source of income, people in the villages are suffering."

Amadou Tidjane Amadou,
Red Cross Society of Niger

➔ A mother brings her child to a clinic at the health centre of Goudel, in Niamey, the capital of Niger. Like a growing number of infants the region, the child suffers from severe malnutrition.

Benoit Matsha-Carpentier/IFRC

Pakistan's super



A glimpse beneath the surface at a disaster that took time to build, then quickly grew to become one of Pakistan's greatest natural disaster's.

📍 Flood victims walk along a submerged road at Karamdad Qureshi village in Dera Ghazi Khan district of Punjab province.
REUTERS/Asim Tanveer, courtesy www.alertnet.org

NO MATTER HOW concentrated the rain that precedes them, or how dramatic the surge of water down a valley, floods will always be seen as 'slow-onset' disasters, never quite as fixed in time and space as earthquakes. This was visible in the differing responses to the 2010 Haitian quake and the Pakistan 'superflood', as it was dubbed by the Pakistani media, the most destructive disasters in the two countries' history.

The psychological importance of this is not to be underestimated. While Haiti was overwhelmed

with aid in the first 48 hours after the earthquake, the response by donors, humanitarians and even the commercial media to the Pakistan floods was generally regarded as sluggish.

The world outside Pakistan only began to respond on 29 July when the story broke internationally. In fact, there had been a nine-day gestation period, which began when the first monsoon rains forced the authorities in the twin cities of Islamabad and Rawalpindi to warn residents of low-lying areas to flee. After several years of below-average monsoons

Timeline of a 'non-linear' disaster

THE GESTATION

21 July: At least 12 people die in floods in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa (KPK) and Punjab provinces; parts of the cities of Lahore and Faisalabad are inundated.

23 July: More than 70 die in Baluchistan province, where the Pakistani military used helicopters based in Quetta to get relief to nearly 30,000 stranded people.

24 July: The Pakistani Meteorological Office correctly predicts "very heavy rain" for the following week. Islamabad records 65 mm of rain in a single 24-hour period.

28 July: Torrential rain was one factor contributing to the crash of the Airblue Airbus 321 as it tried to land at Benazir Bhutto International Airport.

flood



📡 Satellite images taken on 10 August 2009 and the same date this year show the extreme swelling of the Indus River, including the submersion of vast areas outside the normal floodplain.

during which many storm-drains became clogged with trash, the 2010 monsoon, as predicted by the Pakistani Meteorological Office, began “normally” — with torrential downpours.

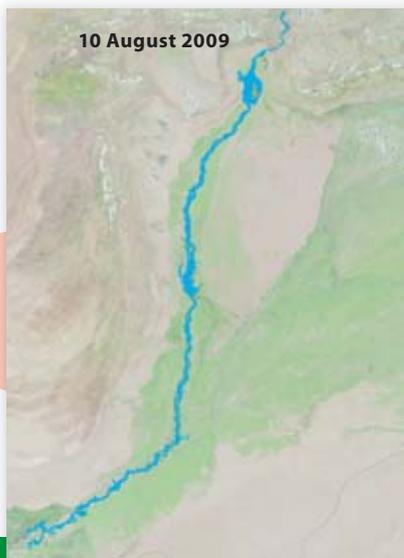
Ironically, those first rains were greeted as a blessing all over the country, whether by young boys pictured in newspapers jumping into Karachi’s China Creek, teenagers leaning out of their cars as they raced through the curtains of water sluicing ‘Isloo’ (Islamabad) or Punjabi and Sindhi farmers peering anxiously at the parched soil.

Ready to respond

When the flood surges finally crashed down through Nowshera, Charsadda and parts of Peshawar, the devastation was instantly historic. The death toll at the end of the first day was given as nearly 200, hundreds of thousands of people were cut off and the authorities asked for hundreds of boats to reach them. But the superflood had only just begun. Downriver in Punjab and Sindh provinces, the mass evacuations began — many of them managed by the Pakistani military, quickly to become a major player in the humanitarian response.

The Pakistan Red Crescent Society (PRCS) was also well placed to respond. One of the most seasoned National Societies in the region, with recent experience of both natural disaster (the 2005 Kashmir earthquake) and fighting (the Pakistani military offensive in the Swat valley, which ended barely a year ago), it had 130,000 volunteers based in branches throughout the country.

As the flood moved south into Punjab and finally Sindh, the PRCS quickly pitched several thousand



29 July: The Swat and Kabul rivers, which feed the northern extremity of the Indus, can take no more: flood surges crash down through Nowshera, Charsadda and parts of Peshawar, the capital of KPK. Some 200 people are reported killed.

TENSE TIMES

3 August: Attention focuses on dams on the Indus that are taking far more water than they were designed to, even with spillways open. Had any one of them collapsed, Sukkur or Hyderabad, both major cities, would have been inundated.

6 August: The United Nations says at least 1,600 have been killed and 14 million affected. The PRCS pitches several thousand tents beside roads and railway lines and along the dykes where many displaced villagers first made camp after wading and swimming out of the flooded countryside.

tents beside roads and railway lines and along the dykes where many displaced villagers first made camp after wading and swimming out of the flooded countryside.

Mobile PRCS medical teams — 25 of them at the end of July, increasing to 31 at the end of August — moved around the most seriously affected areas, treating people for the flood-related illnesses that quickly ‘spiked’: gastro-enteritis, respiratory tract infections, skin disease. “We see an average of 400 patients a day at this post,” said the PRCS’s Safina Hashim, speaking in a riverside village near Nowshera two weeks after a flash flood had all but razed it to the ground. “We try to move the posts to a different village every few days.”

By mid-August, the PRCS had distributed relief of one kind or another to more than 50,000 households, or an estimated 350,000 people countrywide, sometimes with the assistance of the ICRC and using international Red Cross Red Crescent resources already in-country or flown in by National Societies like those of Canada, Denmark, Germany, Iran, Qatar and Turkey.

The ICRC’s partnership with the PRCS in the areas of Pakistan affected by fighting, meanwhile, gave it access other agencies lacked, including in Baluchistan, which is generally off-limits for foreign aid workers on security grounds. In late August, the ICRC shipped food and other items for distribution by the PRCS to 70,000 people in Jaffarabad, Nasirabad and Sibi districts, the worst-affected areas in Baluchistan. Working with the PRCS, the ICRC also helped to restore links between the members of more than 750 families dispersed by the floods.

“Relief supplies were also provided to people displaced from Baluchistan to camps in Sindh and southern Punjab,” said Pascal Cuttat, head of the ICRC delegation in Islamabad.

The PRCS’s general level of readiness was probably as high, and the quantity of relief supplies it kept in stock as large, as is economically ‘rational’, even in a disaster-prone nation like Pakistan. The harsh truth is that no country can maintain the capacity needed to deal with a mega-disaster like the monsoon super-flood fast enough to placate both domestic and international opinion.

A long bumpy road

Compounding the logistical nightmare that follows most major floods, with roads and bridges washed away, were the sheer distances involved. The super-

flood caused devastation from the Swat valley in the north of the country to the Indus delta in the far south, some 1,300 kilometres distant.

In addition, rural people displaced by the floods generally did not cluster but made camp at whatever point they first felt safe, often on the dyke nearest their flooded homesteads, or drove in tractor-trailers to the nearest town or city to get help. By and large, it was not a camp-based operation (few wished it were), but a highly diffuse one. The inevitable corollary: things took time.



As a variety of IFRC Emergency Response Units (ERUs) began to arrive in Pakistan, specialist PRCS water and sanitation teams reactivated equipment from former Spanish Red Cross ERUs, first shipped to Pakistan as part of the international response to the 2007 floods; more equipment was also flown in from Spain.

One unit, trucked from Karachi, was set up at Shikarpur, near a flyover where some 300 families, or about 2,000 people, slept in Red Crescent tents. “We’re pumping up to 20,000 litres a day,” said Nasir Khan, the PRCS team leader. “The people here were drinking dirty water from a lake before this.” The Shikarpur unit and others were, in their way, a model of how ERU deployments can strengthen National Society capacity in the long term.

📍 A member of a Pakistan Red Crescent Society mobile medical team treats a child in the village of Pashtun Garhi in Nowshera district, KPK province. REUTERS/Patrick Fuller/IFRC, courtesy www.alertnet.org

10 August: Satellite photo images (see page 13) compare the swollen lower section of the Indus River to one year ago.

THE FLOOD WATERS RECEDE

Early September: Thatta in the Indus delta, the most southerly city in the path of the main flood surge, is declared out of danger.

Mid-September: As flood waters recede, a clearer picture of the damage to health, food security and shelter emerges. Vast stagnant pools create an ideal breeding ground for malarial mosquitoes. An estimated 2 million people are at risk.

'Non-linear' disaster

The emergency phase of the disaster could be said to have ended in the first week of September, when Thatta in the Indus delta — the most southerly city in the path of the main flood surge — was declared to be out of danger. But the disaster overall, as Jacques de Maio, ICRC head of operations for South Asia, put it, was “non-linear” — without a clear beginning or end.

“With a tsunami or an earthquake,” he said, “there are a certain number of people killed and a certain amount of property destroyed, and that determines the immediate humanitarian response.” This was far from the case in Pakistan, with vast areas still submerged and hundreds of thousands of people newly displaced as late as the beginning of September.

The waters recede

As the flood waters receded, and more people began to return to their devastated homes and villages, a clearer picture of the damage emerged. Health, food security and shelter became the chief issues to be addressed in the medium term. The Sindh authorities said most of the province's irrigation system had been washed away. Countrywide, the damage wrought by the superflood will take many months to assess; anything approaching full recovery will take many years.

In Punjab and Sindh, the inland sea which the Indus had become gave way in places to vast stagnant pools, the ideal breeding ground for malarial mosquitoes. Many 'island-villages' continued to depend on helicopter-borne relief.

The torrents also obliterated millions of acres of crops — rice, wheat, fruit and cotton, a vital cash export for Pakistan. Hundreds of thousands of cattle perished and, in cities nationwide, food prices soared.

Many thousands of people — most of them village-dwellers dependent on agriculture — remained in hundreds of camps, where they were supplied with water (delivered by truck) and food. Added to these challenges was the approach of winter, with close to 1 million men, women and children receiving emergency and transitional shelter assistance.

“We are very grateful for the help we are receiving, but we need more,” said Fazlay Razak, a farmer in Charsadda, where farms were buried in mud that destroyed local wheat and sugar cane crops. “The



A man carries food supplies distributed by the Pakistan Red Crescent Society in Nowshera town in August. REUTERS/Patrick Fuller/IFRC, courtesy www.alertnet.org

Double disaster, double hardship

Stunning images of the swollen Indus River — the photos of stranded villagers and submerged trucks — have made plain the sweeping scale of the Pakistan floods. Just below the surface there's a challenging environment for aid workers and a double disaster in which communities already affected by fighting were then swept up in another catastrophe.

“In Pakistan we are seeing something unique,” said Jacques de Maio, ICRC's head of operations for South Asia. “The complexity of the crisis, the number of intersecting and distinct dynamics that are playing out in Pakistan at their full breadth is quite remarkable.”

In places such as Malakand division, in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa, it also means double hardship. “Only last year more than 1 million people were displaced by fighting within the area,” said Pascal Cuttat, head of the ICRC delegation in Islamabad. “Many of them are still displaced even now, and our support to them continues. The floods have come on top of that, and tens of thousands of people are suffering from a combination of armed violence and floods.”

In addition, flood victims in some areas contend with another problem: the threat of landmines. Swept down by the rains from the mountains where fighting is ongoing, mines and unexploded ordnance were deposited in previously uncontaminated areas. Khawaga Bibi found this out as she went out as usual one morning to collect firewood with the other women of her village near Dera Ismail Khan. As she bent to pick up a branch she stepped on a mine, which severed her right leg below the knee and injured her shoulder and arm. She was treated at the Surgical Hospital for Weapon Wounded run by the ICRC in Peshawar. In another incident, three children were severely injured.

food we have been given is not going to last. And without good farmland, I cannot start working to produce my own food to feed my children.” ■

This story was reported by **Alex Wynter** and **Jessica Barry**, and written by **Alex Wynter**.

Alex Wynter was IFRC spokesman in Pakistan during August and early September 2010, and communications team leader in Haiti from February to May. He is a freelance journalist based in the UK.

Jessica Barry is an ICRC communications delegate who also worked in Haiti and Pakistan.

21 September: With support from all Movement partners, the PRCS has at this point given food relief to more than 150,000 people, while 31 PRCS mobile medical teams have so far provided medical care to some 120,000 people affected by the flood.

2 October: Flood waters in Pakistan have reached the Arabian Sea and are generally receding throughout the country.

Mid-October: The Pakistan Red Crescent and Movement partners develop long-term plans to deal with food security, disease prevention and control, long-term shelter and other issues.

Pakistan's people in peril

The story of Pakistan's superflood was often told in numbers: 21 million people affected (homeless, injured, malnourished or sick), more than 4,500 villages swept away, 2 million people at risk of malaria, 20 per cent of the country under water. Beyond these frightening numbers, it came down to individuals struggling to survive. A young boy wading through deep mud to get medicine. An old man carrying a 25-kilo sack of rice. Families swimming for their lives, or stranded in trees or rooftops, amid a churning sea of brown water. Here in photos are a few of their stories.



📍 A man clutches his children while wading through flood waters towards a naval boat in Sukkur, in Pakistan's Sindh province.
REUTERS/Akhtar Soomro, courtesy www.alertnet.org

📍 Marooned flood victims grab the side bars of a hovering army helicopter, which arrived to distribute food supplies in the Muzaffargarh district of Pakistan's Punjab province.
REUTERS/Adrees Latif, courtesy www.alertnet.org





📍 A family displaced by flooding wades through flood waters as they return to their village of Bello Patan, in Pakistan's Sindh province in late September. REUTERS/Akhtar Soomro, courtesy www.alertnet.org

📍 Two boys stand amid the ruins of their old neighbourhood in the Nowshera district — one of the worst-affected districts in Khyber-Paktunkwa province. IFRC



An interview with Reto Stocker, ICRC's head of delegation in Afghanistan.

Critical condition

THE DRAMATIC RISE in war casualties taken to Mirwais Regional Hospital in Kandahar, supported by the ICRC, is just one sign that the situation in Afghanistan is worsening. The proliferation of armed groups, the recent killing of aid workers and continued conflict make delivery of humanitarian assistance a daunting challenge. For civilians caught in the crossfire, the situation is even more dire. Every day, mothers bring their sick children to the Kandahar hospital too late because they are afraid to travel or are held up by roadblocks.

"This is just the tip of the iceberg as those who suffer other sorts of injuries or contract disease as an indirect result of the conflict far outnumber weapon-wounded patients," says Reto Stocker, head of the ICRC delegation in Kabul. "The result is that children die from tetanus, measles and tuberculosis — easily prevented with vaccines — while women die in childbirth and otherwise strong men succumb to simple infections."

In a recent interview, Stocker spoke about the challenges facing aid delivery and suggested that humanitarian assistance in Afghanistan faces a precarious future.

What is the main challenge for the ICRC in its humanitarian work?

Being close to those in need is the most important and the most challenging aspect of our work in Afghanistan. We can only deliver our services by physically being where it matters most.

In Afghanistan, most places were easily accessible until the military intervention in 2001. Early in 2003, the country became

"Those who suffer other sorts of injuries or contract disease as an indirect result of the conflict far outnumber weapon-wounded patients."

significantly more dangerous for humanitarian personnel, a development that culminated in the murder of an ICRC delegate. That marked the end of humanitarian access as we knew it, and the beginning of a fully-fledged insurgency.

By initiating or resuming substantive dialogue with all warring parties, not taking sides and not discriminating among those we set out to serve, we at the ICRC have managed to assist war-affected people in many places — often in partnership with the Afghanistan Red Crescent, which is active in most parts of the country, and to expand our presence in the north and south. The ICRC's humanitarian operation in Afghanistan is currently its largest in the world in terms of resources committed.

The ICRC often refers to itself as a neutral intermediary in armed conflict. Can the ICRC also help other organizations to deliver important



Marko Kobilica/ICRC

services to people in this dangerous environment?

Yes, we do sometimes help other humanitarian organizations that

have a crucial service to offer but find it hard to deliver it due to the complex and unsafe environment. For example, for some time now we have been helping out with a crucial vaccination campaign by getting parties to the conflict to agree that it is needed and to allow it to go ahead. International humanitarian law recognizes the need for a neutral and independent intermediary that all parties to conflict can turn to. In precisely that role, we assist in hostage releases, evacuate battlefield casualties and put families in touch with relatives detained by the opposite side, to mention just a few of our activities.

Has it become easier or more difficult for humanitarian organizations to reach people in need of aid?

The degree to which we have been able to reach people in Afghanistan in order to deliver crucial humanitarian services to them



At Kandahar's Mirwais hospital, ICRC and local medical staff treat an increasing number of war wounded, as well as those suffering indirectly from the conflict.
Jan Powell/ICRC

believe that our security derives mainly from the trust and acceptance we enjoy in Afghanistan. Building higher walls around our offices or hiring armed guards would, in our view, be counter-productive and would distance us from — rather than bring us closer to — those we are here to serve.

What's the outlook for the months and years to come?

Two main factors are likely to influence what happens. On the one hand, the degree to which ordinary people and the warring parties come to accept that humanitarian organizations are truly neutral and impartial, that they are performing their tasks for purely humanitarian reasons, will matter a lot. On the other hand, armed groups and other parties to the conflict seem to be proliferating. In our experience, it is easier to reach people in a given place when you have only two or three distinct parties to negotiate access with than when you have a different armed group for each region, district or even village.

Ordinary people, as always, pay the price. More armed groups usually means more violence and suffering, and therefore more need for the aid provided by organizations such as ours. More armed groups also means significantly more difficulty faced by organizations like the ICRC seeking to reach the victims, therefore leaving even more people needing help, and so on. It's a tragically vicious circle. Unfortunately, we are concerned that that is the way things could be headed. ■

has evolved considerably over the years since 2002. Immediately after the 2001 military intervention, many humanitarian organizations were encouraged to integrate humanitarian activities into the overall military and political strategy of stabilization and reconstruction, an approach that we at the ICRC did not follow. That led to some aid agencies being perceived as not having solely humanitarian objectives. As a result, their access to certain parts of the country was hampered.

Recently, however, many humanitarian organizations have sought to distance themselves from the political and military realm, in order to work along purely humanitarian lines while adopting a neutral and impartial approach. This is a recognition on their part that the only way for humanitarian organizations to operate across front lines is to have exclusively humanitarian motivations and not to take sides. This has led over the past three to four years to greater acceptance of some of the organizations, which, as a result, have had better access.

This year, several medical staff from an international aid agency were killed in the north of the country. Have you

considered using armed guards or taking similar measures to protect your staff?

First of all, there is no such thing as absolute security in Afghanistan — not for us at the ICRC and not for anyone else. To come back to your question, the answer is no. We do not have armed guards protecting either the offices or the residences used by our 1,600 staff, and we do not use bullet-proof vehicles. We

Casualties double

The number of war casualties taken to Mirwais Regional Hospital in Kandahar for treatment is hitting record highs. Supported by the ICRC, the hospital registered close to 1,000 new patients with weapon-related injuries in August and September 2010 as compared with just over 500 during the same period in 2009.

New prosthetics centre

The ICRC opened a seventh prosthetics/orthotic centre in the country, in Lashkar Gah, Helmand province, to address the drastic increase in the number of weapon-related amputations in southern Afghanistan.

First-aid training

Since March, the Afghanistan Red Crescent has trained over 500 Red Crescent volunteers in first aid as part of its community-based first aid (CBFA) programme. There are more than 23,000 CBFA volunteers around the country. Often, they are the only trained persons capable of providing basic health services in their areas.



Jan Powell/ICRC

In a remote, war-torn region of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, convoys of trucks and motorcycles are no match for the steep, muddy and maze-like mountain paths. So seeds and household goods are distributed to displaced families by the most efficient means available. By bicycle.



Hope on two whe

SIMON IS BATHED in sweat. He stops for a drink of water and sees other cyclists overtake him. One of them calls out: “*Tufagne ngufu!*” — “Keep going!” in Swahili. Simon watches them with a smile and sets off after them, not as quickly as he would like because of the bumpy ground and the load he is carrying. He is nonetheless determined not to be the last to reach the rallying point that evening.

Contrary to appearances, Simon and his friends are not taking part in a cycle race. They are members of a squad of 1,000 cyclists that is criss-crossing the district of Tshopo as part of an assistance operation being carried out by the ICRC and the Red Cross of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) in support of the people sheltering in the area around the town of Opienge.

Rough terrain

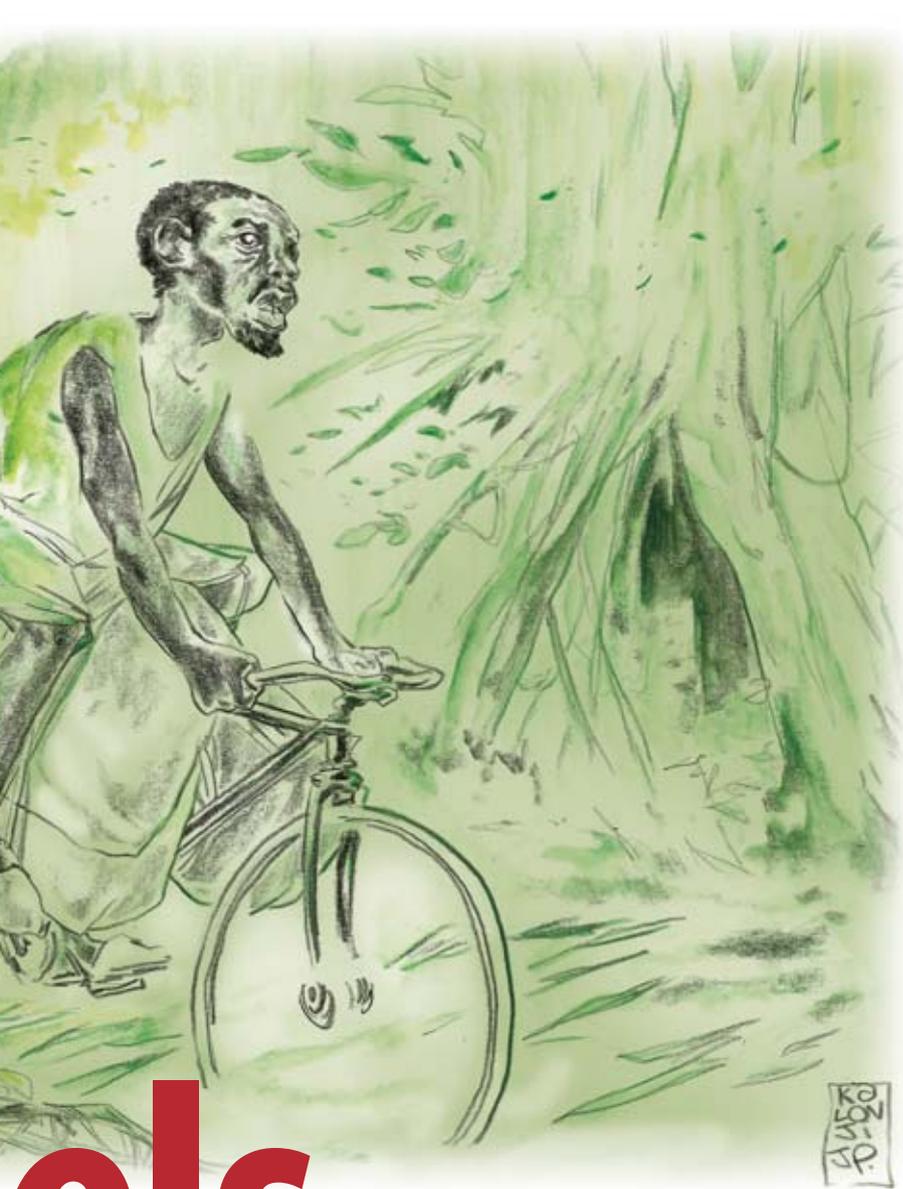
Province Orientale (in the north of the DRC) is known for its lush natural environment and the beauty of

the countryside. “Of course it’s beautiful, but just look at this track,” says Simon. “If you want to avoid injury and arrive in one piece, you have to keep your eyes on the ground and not admire the scenery like a tourist.”

The inadequate and dilapidated condition of the roads means that transporting essential everyday items, food or medicines may take days or even weeks. Only those professional cyclists — known as *tolekists* (from the Lingala word *toleka*, which means ‘to pass’) — are able to find their way through the maze of impracticable roads.

This daily challenge comes on top of the chronic instability in the region. Over the years, the nearby forest has become home to a number of frightened families, who have been forced out of their homes by the violence and the conflict between the national armed forces and several armed groups.

More than 50,000 people in this region are said to be affected by this rarely mentioned conflict.



els

Illustration by J.P. Kalonji/Eleventh Hour Artists Ltd.

“In a lot of places, Father Christmas travels on a sleigh; here, he has sent 1,000 bicycles of hope.”

Some of them have had to leave their villages and those who have remained are no better off. Looted and destroyed villages, lost harvests, an outlook as bleak and uncertain as that dirt track — that is the lot of many men and women in Tshopo. While nearly 70 per cent of them have returned and are starting to farm their land again, they are still sharing their resources with more than 15,000 displaced people from far-off villages who have not yet found the courage to make the journey back home.

Logistical headache

Simon is pedalling his bicycle for those people. Although the road to Opienge and to Balobe, two of the areas worst hit by the conflict, is vitally important, it is unusable. As for the landing strip, a fair amount of repair work is needed. That was the logistical challenge identified by teams from the ICRC and the DRC Red Cross when they looked

at how to transport aid to the displaced, resident and returning populations in Opienge and the surrounding area.

“From Kisangani to Bafwasende, no problem,” Elias Wieland, who heads the ICRC office in Kisangani, explains. “But how are we to get nearly 72 tonnes of seed and 4,000 toolkits from Bafwasende to Opienge?”

The people living in the region solved that problem long ago — thanks to the *tolekists*. Their lightweight, low-maintenance bicycles are well suited to the local terrain and have quickly become the kingpin of the assistance operation.

“I’ve had to organize convoys of trucks, arrange for porters to transport vaccines on their back, manage aircraft movement, organize the loading of a barge and find motorcyclists to cope with difficult terrain,” says logistics coordinator Jean-Marie Falzone. “But a squad of 1,000 cyclists, that’s a first.”

Seeds of hope

Three days after setting out, Simon arrives — exhausted but happy. “It was tough, but we are used to the terrain. For me, it isn’t just a physical challenge like the Tour de France. It’s my job, but this time, it’s also an opportunity to do something useful,” he says as he unloads the 45-kilogram sack of seeds from his bicycle.

Although the soil is fertile, successive conflicts have prevented the inhabitants from farming their land. Fébronie, a 30-year-old mother, says, “Life has become hard. Before, we farmed our land and Opienge fed the entire Bafwasende area. But how are we supposed to farm with all this tension? Before the conflict, a cup of rice cost 100 Congolese francs; today, it costs 300.”

In July and August 2010, 4,000 displaced and returning households in Opienge and the surrounding area were given 20 kg of rice seed and 18 kg of household tools. Now, if all goes well, Fébronie will be able to start harvesting rice in five months’ time. Just in time for Christmas.

Simon smiles. “I thought I was carrying seed. Now I know why the load was so heavy: it was full of the hopes of all those mothers. At Christmas, that seed will bring joy. In a lot of places, Father Christmas travels on a sleigh; here, he has sent 1,000 bicycles of hope.” ■

By Inah Kaloga

Inah Kaloga is an ICRC communications coordinator based in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Life on the

***Strategy 2020* calls ‘people who have been trafficked’ an important vulnerable population. But human trafficking is a tricky issue that few National Societies take on directly. For the Cambodian Red Cross Society, it starts with a helping hand to guide victims — or those in danger of becoming victims — back to safety.**

YOU’RE ON A window ledge, three floors up. No one has seen you yet, but down below the streets of Phnom Penh are busy. It’s 17:00 and there are plenty of people walking along the broken concrete sidewalks of Cambodia’s capital. You hear the traffic, feel the wind unsteadying you. You haven’t eaten well for days and the summer heat makes you dizzy.

You think about going back inside, through the little window behind you. But it took a lot of effort for one of your fellow prisoners to push you up while you grasped the window frame and pulled yourself onto the ledge.



edge



Red Cross volunteers conduct a trafficking awareness meeting in a village in Svay Rieng province. Robert Few/IFRC

Perhaps it is better to go back inside and risk abuse or a beating from your jailers. Not that this place you're escaping from is a prison: it's an 'employment agency' that sends women to Malaysia with the promise of a good job and good pay.

This was the situation facing 35-year-old Kim Sarine* last April, a few days after the Khmer New Year celebrations. Not that Sarine had had much to celebrate. She'd come to the capital to find work when she was 19, leaving her tiny, dusty village in Svay Rieng province — the sharp edge of south-eastern Cambodia that juts into Viet Nam. After years toiling on construction sites and in factories, she heard about the opportunity of domestic work in Malaysia — work which promised to pay three times what she was making in Phnom Penh.

That kind of money — US\$ 180 a month — was just a dream in Cambodia for a woman like Sarine, who dropped out of school when she was 12 to look after her younger brothers and sisters at home. And it remained a dream. Instead of being sent to Malaysia, she was locked up in a shophouse with 70 other women for almost a month and forced to work while the company claimed her visa was being processed. Conditions were grim.

"There was not enough food for us all to eat," says Sarine. "Breakfast was just a spoonful of porridge with water convolvulus [an aquatic plant somewhat like spinach], and if you came late for lunch, you wouldn't get anything."

More disturbing were the stories that started to circulate about what the women could expect in Malaysia. Other women who passed through the agency told of beatings, of having their heads forced down toilets as punishment for not doing enough work and of being arrested by the Malaysian police.

So Sarine, up on the third floor window ledge, faced a difficult choice. In the end, it was made for her — she couldn't fit back through the window

"Because of the shame and wanting to avoid facing the offenders, they are very vulnerable if approached by someone making promises about a better life somewhere else."

Neils Juel, head of the South-East Asia region for the Danish Red Cross

Reader question

What should the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement be doing more to assist victims of human trafficking? Send your responses to rrcc@ifrc.org

* Kim Sarine with her wheelchair, which she no longer needs thanks to rehabilitation arranged for by the Red Cross. Robert Few/IFRC

and, as it turned out, she couldn't climb down either, although she tried. Instead, she fell two floors, breaking her back in the middle of the street.

She lay there for nearly two hours, waiting for an ambulance. "I didn't know if I would live or die," she recalls. "I didn't know if I would ever see my parents again."

While she lay there, the company owner came to shout at her and then went back inside. She never saw him again. The police also came to talk to her and then went inside the company. She never saw them again, either. In the hospital, Sarine was patched up and sent home to Svay Rieng, but not before finding out that she had been pregnant for several months.

Targeting the vulnerable

Back in her village, Sarine's prospects looked bleak. She had a newborn baby and no way to earn money because she couldn't walk. Fortunately, her village was covered by the Cambodian Red Cross's Response to Human Trafficking Programme. Funded by the Danish Red Cross, the programme offers immediate emergency assistance to victims of trafficking and, in some cases, longer-term support to help victims set themselves up again in their communities.

Sarine qualified for both kinds of help. She received an emergency kit, containing food for her and her baby, a change of clothes, mosquito nets and US\$ 10. The Cambodian Red Cross also sent her to Phnom Penh for rehabilitation and arranged for her to get a wheelchair and, later, crutches. Without these, she would never have learned to walk again.

Emergency support like this is just part of the trafficking programme, which works on prevention and tries to address rape and domestic violence, both of which make it more likely that victims will fall prey to traffickers. "Because of the shame and wanting to avoid facing the offenders, they are very vulnerable if approached by someone making promises about a better life somewhere else," says Neils Juel, head of the South-East Asia region for the Danish Red Cross.



The victims are people like Prum Choeun, who has two sons whom she loves very much but whose fathers, both rapists, she can remember as only blurred faces and pain in the dark fields of her village. Victims like 5-year-old Boupha Lim, raped in the corner of her grandfather's wooden house by a friend of the family and 7-year-old Nary Ouch, raped by a neighbour while collecting fruit from his garden.

Ouch's rapist has been sentenced to 15 years in prison, but Ouch will suffer for the rest of her life. She's already lost all her friends because she never leaves the house and the neighbours do not allow their children to visit her. "It's Cambodian culture," says her grandmother, Phirum Ouch, with resignation. "If your house has a problem, no one wants to visit you. They fear that they will have problems, too."

This social isolation makes them perfect targets for traffickers. In response, the Cambodian Red Cross offered Ouch's family the usual Red Cross emergency kit as well as a bike and a micro-loan of US\$ 130 for her grandmother to start a small clothing business. The bike is both the grandmother's transportation and her shop, used to get from village to village and as a hanger to display her wares for sale. "After [the

Phirum Ouch talks to Cambodian Red Cross staff outside her corrugated-iron home, while her granddaughter hides in the shadows. Robert Few/IFRC

"I didn't know if I would live or die. I didn't know if I would ever see my parents again."

Trafficking victim and mother, 35-year-old **Kim Sarine**

expenses of] this case, our hands were empty but now we can start again," she says.

Just down the road, interest-free loans have allowed rape victim Prum Choeun to start up a broom-making business, bringing in enough money to pay back the loan and keep her children in school and Boupha Lim's mother has been helped to expand her leek-growing operation, doubling her income and making the family much less likely to risk undocumented migration or heed the lies of unscrupulous employment brokers, who roam villages like these attracting the desperate to make-believe jobs.

Knowing the limits

In all of these cases, Red Cross volunteers make regular home visits to offer advice and comfort and to make sure victims know what other services are available and how to access them. But there are limits to what the Red Cross and its volunteers can do.

Kanha Sun, who runs the Cambodian Red Cross's trafficking project in Cambodia, explains: "We have limited resources, so we can't provide shelters or the qualified social workers and security staff to operate them."

The Cambodian Red Cross, therefore, is not trying to do everything. There are more than 60 organizations in Cambodia working to prevent trafficking that are signed up with the United Nations Inter-Agency Project. Shelters, long-term counselling and criminal justice issues are better dealt with by others, Sun says. What the Red Cross is trying to do is complement, not duplicate, existing work, and to play to its strengths — a network of more than 140,000 members and access to communities.

For example, volunteers run awareness-raising campaigns in their villages, warning people what kind of tricks to look out for. They also encourage discussion of domestic violence and rape as a way to make these less accepted, both among women, who can be too frightened or stigmatized to seek help, and among men, who often do not realize the damage they are doing to their families and to themselves.

Though the programme is active in ten provinces, it is still small, assisting only about 100 victims of trafficking per year, Sun says. Through its violence prevention and micro-loan programmes, the Red Cross helps many more people. But it's difficult to measure whether these investments are decisive in preventing victims of sexual violence from succumbing to traffickers in the future.

The Cambodian Red Cross wants to step up work on reuniting missing family members who have disappeared abroad through the ICRC's Restoring

Family Links programme. The effort would mean working more closely with National Societies in neighbouring countries, and this would require a greater commitment to trafficking prevention internationally by the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement (see box below).

"There are no easy solutions to trafficking and our work here has only just begun," Sun says. "But it is clear that the Red Cross has a role to play." ■

☺ Prum Choeun with one of her brooms, which she can make and sell thanks to a micro-loan provided by the Red Cross. Robert Few/IFRC

By Robert Few

Robert Few is a freelance photographer and writer based in Beijing. Victims names have been changed.



Hard times an opportunity for traffickers

With times getting even tougher in many areas due to recession and crisis, many experts, government officials and international organizations are warning of a dramatic increase in human trafficking.

A recession brings new business opportunities for the traffickers, explains Lars Linderholm, a Danish Red Cross staff member, an expert on human trafficking and former migration specialist for IFRC's eastern Europe zone. Migrants lose their jobs in western Europe and return home where a cold welcome awaits them, making them vulnerable to false promises from traffickers.

In response, National Societies in various regions are doing what they can. The Belarusian Red Cross, working with the International Organization for Migration and local authorities, provides a full rehabilitation service for trafficked individuals through five 'Hands of help' centres around the country. When trafficked people are referred to the centres by the authorities, they are given health check-ups as well as psychological support, legal advice, addiction treatment if necessary, accommodation and vocational training to help get them back to work and reintegrated into communities that often shun them.

That said, human trafficking is a complex issue involving criminality and law enforcement and many National Societies defer the issue to other organizations. Often they partner or lend support to other agencies or deal with the issue in the context of programmes on domestic or sexual violence.

"I would say 100 per cent of [those affected] are also victims of violence," says Ana Ravenco, the president of Moldovan anti-trafficking organization La

Strada, which has worked closely with the Red Cross Red Crescent. "Once women have economic independence it is easier for them to get away from an abusive environment."

An effort in Abu Dhabi is also being watched with interest around the Movement. There, the United Arab Emirates Red Crescent Authority is overseeing development of a network of shelters (the Ewaa Shelters for Women and Children) which provide secure shelter and other services for up to 30 women at a time. Most of the women were forced into prostitution and are eventually able to return home, shelter administrators say.

But just as the trafficking problem worsens, the Movement-wide response is uncertain. Most National Society programmes are small and susceptible to external funding cycles. Owing to a lack of resources in Europe, for example, the position of network coordinator in eastern Europe and a resource centre housed in Budapest, Hungary, have been eliminated. The network continues, but activities are scaled back.

Linderholm, who filled that position until July 2010, suggests the Movement offers something unique — a volunteer network that could help victims in their countries of origin, transit and destination. Because victims don't often seek police assistance but might trust the Red Cross or Red Crescent emblem, the Movement is missing an opportunity to make a difference by improving outreach, screening and sensitivity to the issue within the context of existing programmes.

— RCRC, with reporting from Joe Lowry, IFRC



The great leveller

Vulnerability takes on new meaning as the massive urban disaster strikes at the heart of Haiti's middle class.

I HAD BARELY JUMPED out of the Red Cross Land Cruiser before I was surrounded by people waving their CVs. I am on a return visit to Tabarre Issa, a government camp outside the Haitian capital Port-au-Prince, where many humanitarian agencies are working.

As I look through the neatly typed CVs from information technology professionals, nurses, receptionists and teachers, it strikes me how easily you can lose everything after a natural disaster — and how hard it is to regain your foothold.

One of the CVs stands out. Three pages in elegant French request the recipient to consider Manes

Barthelemy, a 38-year-old pastor and former headmaster of a church school.

"I used to run an NGO [non-governmental organization] for poor children, but now I am dependent on the NGOs here for water, shelter and healthcare," he says clutching an envelope of photographs of his former life when he had a house, a job and status.

"I have lost all my points of reference. I know nobody in this camp and don't know how I am going to get out of this nightmare and provide for my family again."

More than six months after the earthquake that claimed an estimated 300,000 lives and wiped out 100,000 homes, members of what was Haiti's middle class have become the new poor in a land of immense poverty. The middle class in Haiti has always been a small and endangered subset (roughly 15 per cent) of the population and the term is used to cover a wide range of people (from small business owners



📍 Pictured here with his family in Tabarre Issa camp in Port-au-Prince, Manes Barthelemy was the headmaster of a church school before the earthquake.

Benoit Matsha-Carpentier/IFRC

“I have lost all my points of reference. I know nobody in this camp and don’t know how I am going to get out of this nightmare and provide for my family again.”

Manes Barthelemy,
a 38-year-old pastor and former headmaster of a church school

📍 Shop owner and dressmaker Odette Mednard lost nearly all her inventory and many clients in the January quake. Now she is rebuilding her business and helping others via a micro-loan programme supported by the American Red Cross.

Talia Frankel/American Red Cross

and they have lost it all. The upper classes have the money to get back on their feet while many in the lower class, who had nothing before not even a house, are more used to adversity.”

Stretching the concept of vulnerability

Humanitarian agencies specialize in helping the most vulnerable — one-parent households, families with many children, people with disabilities and the elderly. It’s a categorization that changes depending on the context and Haiti, the biggest urban disaster in one country that the Movement has ever had to deal with, is pushing the boundaries of what it means to be vulnerable.

“This disaster has completely changed my conception of vulnerability,” says Michaële Gédéon, president of the Haitian Red Cross Society. “Within literally seconds, the world of the middle class collapsed. Civil servants, lawyers, doctors, businessmen dropped a social class overnight and it made me realize that someone who was not considered vulnerable yesterday may be considered vulnerable tomorrow.”

Everyone, whether rich or poor, is considered vulnerable immediately after a natural disaster and has the right to receive humanitarian assistance, but as the recovery phase kicks in, aid agencies have to make hard decisions about where to target limited resources.

Traditionally, agencies have put most of their efforts into helping the most vulnerable get back on their feet, but the scale of the urban disaster in Haiti has led to a new approach. While Oxfam opened community canteens and ran cash-for-work programmes, two staples in the early recovery diet, the agency is for the first time recapitalizing trades people such as welders, masons and plumbers and offering access to credit via microfinance for grocery-store owners.

and managers to administrators, doctors, lawyers and homeowners) with steady, if perhaps modest, income.

Now an entire population of professionals is struggling to survive. “They’ve forgotten us,” says Antoine Petit, a 48-year-old father of two and owner of an import-export business that collapsed after the quake. “My house has been marked for demolition and there is no government compensation, so how am I going to rebuild my life?”

Petit is renting a few squalid rooms without running water from a friend. Even though his neighbourhood now resembles Beirut at the height of the civil war, like many middle-class Haitians in his situation, he prefers to stay in an area he knows.

Kesner Pharel, a local economist and management consultant, is of the opinion that: “The worst place to be right now in Haiti is the middle class. They invested everything they had in their homes



Most agencies help the poorest of the poor, says Philippa Young, a livelihoods expert for Oxfam in Haiti. "This doesn't generate employment and economic opportunity. We need to go beyond helping people to just scratch a living."

Working-class and middle-class people, with entrepreneurial flair or basic work ethic, are benefiting from projects that give them access to credit. The American Red Cross has given US\$ 8.2 million to Fonkaze, Haiti's largest microfinance institution, and is helping more than 200,000 people set up small businesses. Odette Mednard, a dressmaker and small food-shop owner, lost much of her store's inventory in the quake but today her business is growing. "My husband was a mason, but he hasn't worked for six months. I am supporting the family now. Without Fonkaze, it would be all over."

Back on the payroll

Recovery experts point out that livelihood programmes generally focus on helping entrepreneurs restart or start up businesses rather than give back the middle class their jobs as civil servants, doctors or lawyers. However, in Haiti, efforts are being made to ensure that those who do still have a job are at least still paid a salary.

"We have teamed up with [US NGO] Partners in Health and are spending US\$ 3.8 million to pay the salaries of more than 1,800 Haitian doctors, nurses

"They've forgotten us. My house has been marked for demolition and there is no government compensation, so how am I going to rebuild my life?"

Antoine Petit, a 48-year-old father of two and owner of an import-export business that collapsed after the quake

and other staff, many of whom had not been paid since even before the quake, at the largest general hospital in Port-au-Prince," says Julie Sell, spokeswoman for the American Red Cross in Haiti.

But aid agencies stress that there is a limit to what they can achieve following an urban natural disaster on the scale of that in Haiti. "What Haiti needs is a massive reconstruction effort to rebuild factories, industries and infrastructure. This is far beyond Oxfam's capacity and that of the NGO community," says Young.

It is up to the Haitian government, with the support of international donors, to put the country firmly on the path to recovery. The Haitian prime minister, Jean Max Bellerive, who along with former US president Bill Clinton chairs the Interim Haiti Recovery Commission, is a firm believer in trying to bring more attention to the plight of the middle class.

"Everyone wants to concentrate their actions on the camps and the very poor," he says "That is not going to change anything in Haiti. After US\$ 2 or 3 billion, we will be back to the best of where we were on 11 January, which nobody liked."

A major blow

Even before the earthquake the middle class was a struggling group. Many who belong to this economic minority flee Haiti's political instability to find work in Paris, New York, Miami and Montreal. Since the earthquake, the brain drain has continued as many grabbed their passports and children to join their extended family abroad.

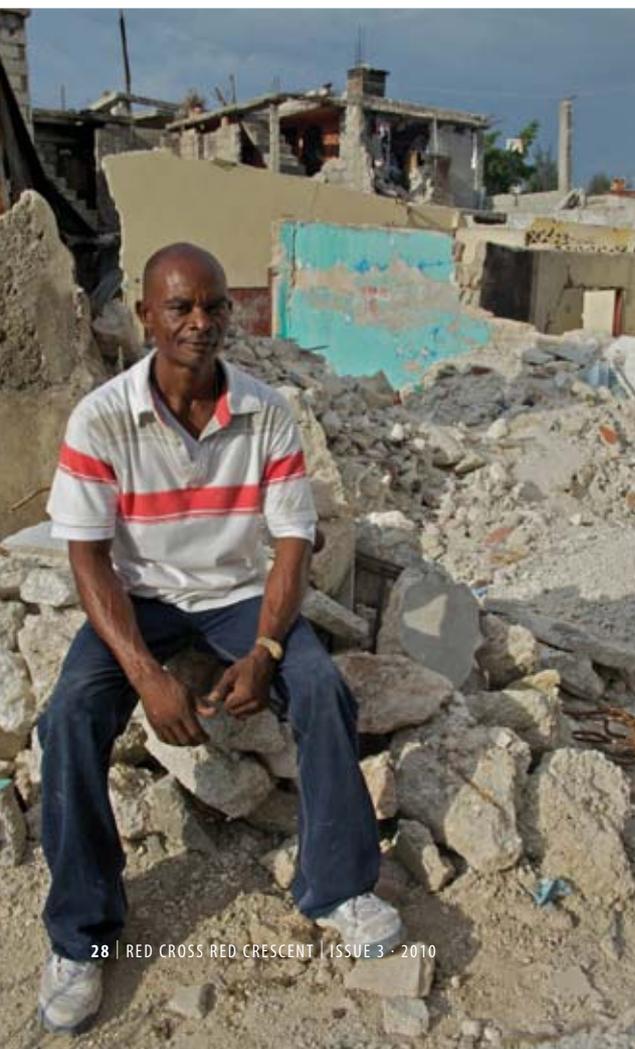
"It will take years, possibly generations before the middle class regains what it had before the quake," says economist Kesner Pharel. "This is a major blow to Haiti as they are crucial to the country's recovery."

Many members of the middle class will benefit from the construction boom, either finding work in the industry or regaining their former jobs once their damaged schools, hospitals and offices have been rebuilt. In the meantime though, if they have not set up their own business, one of their options remains finding work with humanitarian agencies.

Those CVs I collected in the camps went to the IFRC head of human resources in Haiti. Now Antoine Petit has a short-term contract as a translator with the British Red Cross and pastor Barthelemy is giving private French and Creole lessons to a couple of staff at Red Cross base camp in Port-au-Prince. "It is a start and it is helping me regain my self-respect", he says, "but what I really want is to have what I had before." ■

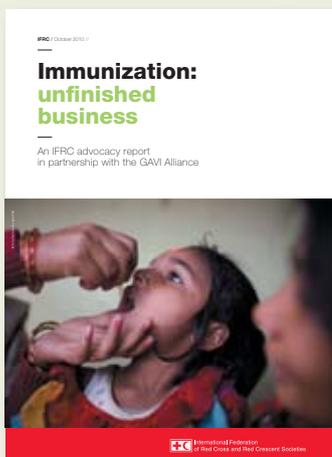
By Claire Doole

Claire Doole is a freelance writer and producer who served as IFRC spokesperson in Haiti.



📍 Antoine Petit, 48, used to run an import-export business. Sitting in front of the rubble where his three-storey house used to stand, Petit says he searches for whatever odd jobs he can find. Tina Stallard/American Red Cross

BOOKS



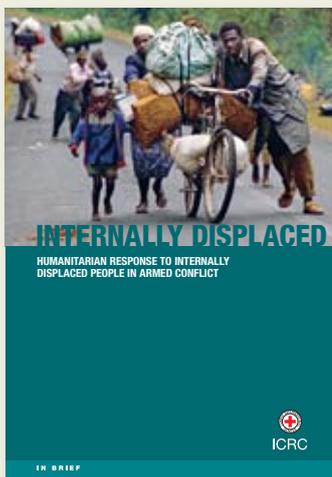
Immunization: unfinished business IFRC and GAVI Alliance, 2010

New vaccines against the pneumococcal bacteria and rotavirus could save more than 1 million children's lives each year, but a US\$ 4 billion gap in funding threatens these and other immunization programmes, says this report published jointly by the IFRC and the GAVI Alliance, which accelerates and finances vaccines in the world's poorest countries.

Available in Arabic, English, French and Spanish

Internally displaced: humanitarian response to internally displaced people in armed conflict ICRC, 2010

The displacement of people within their own countries owing to war



or natural disasters is a matter of growing concern worldwide. Time and again, internally displaced people (IDPs) suffer extreme hardship that jeopardizes their very survival. Civilians having to flee a conflict zone is a good indication that the warring parties are indifferent to their rights under international humanitarian law (IHL) or, worse, are deliberately targeting them. This ICRC publication explains state responsibilities under IHL, as well as the common threats facing IDPs, and what should be done to address their needs.

Available in English, French, Spanish (2007 edition), Chinese (2007 edition). Sfr. 2



Beyond prevention: home management of malaria IFRC, 2010

Home management of malaria (HMM) is a strategy to improve access to appropriate and effective malaria treatment in the community or home through early recognition of malaria symptoms, together with prompt treatment. To do this, volunteer members of the communities are trained to recognize fever, administer treatment to children under 5 years of age and advise on follow-up treatment and prevention. This report details HMM efforts and findings from experiences in Kenya and elsewhere.

Available in Arabic, English, French and Spanish

ICRC materials are available from the International Committee of the Red Cross, 19 avenue de la Paix, CH-1202 Geneva, Switzerland. www.icrc.org

IFRC 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

MEDIA

Cluster munitions: statements and materials of the ICRC (1976–2009) ICRC, 2010

Cluster munitions are a grave danger to civilian women, men and children because they disperse explosive submunitions (bomblets) over very wide areas, potentially causing very high civilian casualties when they are used in populated areas. In addition, submunitions often fail to explode as intended, leaving a long-term legacy of explosive contamination. On 1 August 2010, 30 states ratified a ban on the use of cluster munitions, a historic event that allows the convention to enter into force. The ICRC played a key role in this effort. This CD contains ICRC statements and other material on this topic published between 1976 and 2009. Available in English. Sfr. 2



In detention the humane way ICRC, 2010

Around the world, millions of people live behind bars. But whatever the reason for their imprisonment, they have the right to be held in humane conditions. The ICRC has been working in places of detention since 1915 and today visits 500,000 detainees in some 80 countries every year. This film offers unique insight into how the organization works, exploring its relations with prison authorities and the importance of confidential interviews carried out with the detainees themselves. 18 minutes / DVD multi-lingual: English and French. Sfr. 10

Shadows of hope: missing persons in Nepal ICRC and Nepal Red Cross, 2010

The decade of conflict in Nepal, from 1996 to 2006, caused the disappearance of more than 1,300 people. Today, their families are still waiting for information on the fate of their loved ones. *Shadows of hope* highlights the suffering of the families, whose voices often remain unheard and whose needs are unaddressed. Shot in various locations throughout Nepal and directed by award-winning filmmaker Mohan Mainali, the film tells the stories of six families, of diverse cultures and faiths, who are caught between hope and despair and hence unable to mourn and move forward with their lives. 21 minutes, English / available on YouTube

Climate change in 2009: local actions and global politics IFRC and The Netherlands Red Cross, 2010

The year 2009 was one of high hopes and big disappointments for the new global agreement on climate change discussed in Copenhagen

in December 2009. This report by the Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre details the successes and failures of Copenhagen, but also looks at Movement efforts to improve early warning and preparedness, advocacy, capacity building and the protection of health and vulnerable communities. Available in English



A classic volunteer poster from the Australian Red Cross.

From the collection of the International Red Cross Red Crescent Museum.
www.micr.ch