

RCRC

Red Cross Red Crescent

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Education in crisis

Can humanitarians help prevent another lost generation?

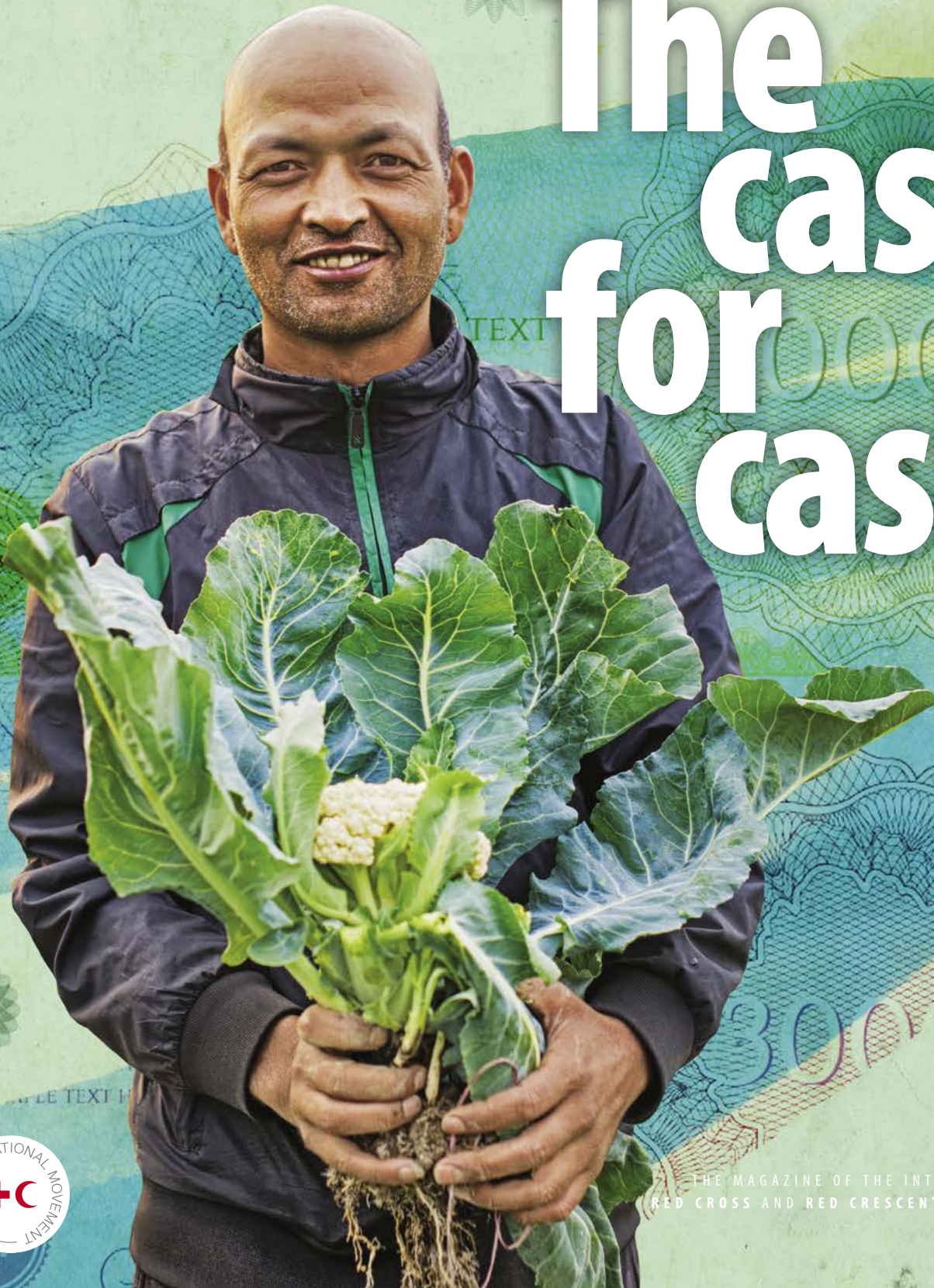
A day at sea

On board the life-saving ship with the Italian Red Cross

The cost of violence

How violence against women perpetuates poverty

The case for cash



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.



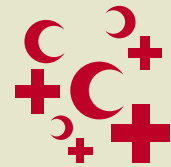
ICRC

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 (IFRC) is the world's largest volunteer-based humanitarian network, reaching 160 million people each year through its 190 member National Societies. Together, the IFRC acts before, during and after disasters and health emergencies to meet the needs and improve the lives of vulnerable people. It does so with impartiality as to nationality, race, gender, religious beliefs, class and political opinions. Guided by Strategy 2020 — a collective plan of action to tackle the major humanitarian and development challenges of this decade — the IFRC is committed to 'saving lives and changing minds'.



National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies embody the work and principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement in more than 190 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.

Cash, a chance for change

IN 2003, A SMALL HUMANITARIAN organization, then known as Horn Relief, concluded that providing cash to people suffering severe drought in northern Somalia would be the best way to revitalize markets and get people working and fed. Field workers for the organization, including myself, weren't trying to propose grand reforms in aid delivery; we simply thought cash was the most practical solution based on local market dynamics.

The area's economy had shut down because pastoralists — who borrow in the dry season to buy basic supplies and repay during the wet season — could not meet their debts. As cash dried up, shopkeepers shut their doors.

Visiting donors and aid organizations saw dusty towns with closed-up shops and asked, "How can you provide cash here? There's no market." Some openly laughed at us. Others were wary of employing cash in a country mired in conflict, with no functional central government and many areas controlled by armed militias.

Because we were working closely with the community, we could see that an injection of cash would revive the market supply chain and that, despite the challenges, Somalia was surprisingly well-suited to large-scale cash programming. We knew that shopkeepers still had goods even if their doors were temporarily shut and that the country already had a highly developed remittance system facilitated by money transfer companies.

Finally, Oxfam Novib in the Netherlands provided funding to allocate US\$ 690,000 to 13,800 households. When the project concluded, a United Nations post-distribution survey found that the cash grants were extremely effective in giving the most vulnerable people access to food and other basic items available in the market. This success led to greater acceptance of cash transfers in Somalia.

Today, cash transfers are a popular aid modality, used in nearly every emergency



Photo: African Development Solutions

Cash alone will not change the power dynamics that haunt the aid system and hinder local innovation.

response. When done well, cash can boost local economies and help maintain the dignity of aid recipients. But in all this rush to scale up cash interventions, I can't help but feel we must challenge ourselves further to put affected people at the centre of our response and empower the local institutions that will help people become truly resilient over the long term.

Over time, I believe, cash transfers should be integrated into larger social protection schemes, managed where possible by governments. The diverse range of ad-hoc cash projects popping up around the world raises questions about data protection and risks undermining the development of strong, national or local social protection systems. Where possible, data should be collected by local authorities and managed centrally by governments, which would in turn adopt data protection laws and policies. These systems could then develop to become shock responsive,

scaling up rapidly in the event of crisis or contracting as needed.

Additionally, the fragmented, duplicative and demeaning system of recipient registration must be streamlined. In some countries, organizations have collaborated to register recipients once and provide them with a card accepted by multiple agencies. This is far from universal in international crises, however. If it were, aid groups could free up staff to engage in more qualitative interactions that address deeper, systemic challenges.

In many ways, cash transfers are spurring these and other important discussions about the way humanitarians interact with the people they hope to help. We've known for years, for example, that large-scale importation of commodities can have a major, occasionally detrimental, effect on local markets. But there was little incentive to change because of subsidization of food aid in donor countries. Today, cash transfers are forcing us to raise questions about market fallout before we intervene. Similarly, they continue to push us all to improve the assessment and monitoring tools used to decide who to help and that ensure we are truly empowering the most vulnerable.

Ultimately, the cash transfer revolution could also help local organizations with local market knowledge play a greater role in helping communities strengthen their resilience. However, cash alone will not change the power dynamics that haunt the aid system and hinder local innovation. For real change, we must see cash programming as an opportunity to challenge our assumptions, facilitate self-empowerment of the people we seek to assist and spark real innovation rather than simply replacing old modalities — rice, tarpaulins and kitchen kits, etc. — with colourful banknotes, plastic cash cards or ATM machines.

By **Degan Ali**

Degan Ali is the executive director of African Development Solutions, based in Nairobi, Kenya

In brief...

Attacks on aid workers continue

A horrific attack on an aid convoy and a warehouse operated by the Syrian Arab Red Crescent near Aleppo killed 20 civilians (including a Red Crescent staff member) in September and deprived thousands of civilians of much-needed food and medical assistance. "We're totally devastated by the deaths of so many people, including one of our colleagues, the director of our sub-branch, Omar Barakat," said Syrian Arab Red Crescent President Abdulrahman Attar. "He was a committed and brave member of our family... working relentlessly to alleviate the suffering of the Syrian people." While the attack garnered considerable media coverage and condemnation from world leaders as a flagrant violation of international humanitarian law, attacks in other conflicts received less attention. In August, for example, the Movement mourned the death

of Khalid Abdullah, a 65-year-old Red Crescent volunteer with the Yemen Red Crescent Society, who was shot in August while laying the groundwork to distribute food inside the city of Taiz. "With more than 30 years' experience as a Yemen Red Crescent volunteer, Khalid brought a difference to the lives of many people," said Fuad Al-Makhazy, the Yemen Red Crescent's secretary general.

Italian Red Cross aids quake victims

After a series of earthquakes rocked central Italy between August and November, Italian Red Cross volunteers worked tirelessly to rescue people from the rubble, provide meals and offer psychological support to those who lost everything in the quake — including their own family members. The Red Cross's mobile kitchen in the village of Amatrice, hit by a deadly quake in August, provided 800 meals a day to both survivors and emergency services personnel. Meanwhile, Italian Red Cross search-and-rescue teams worked around the clock to recover the victims trapped in the debris. "When we arrived in Amatrice, almost the entire town was destroyed, but we managed to rescue 20 people from the rubble," said Piero Altissimi, a member of the Red Cross rescue team. Many migrants also joined the search-and-rescue efforts or raised money to help quake victims despite their limited means, according to news reports.

Voices

"I used to get part-time jobs in other people's fields but now there is nothing in the fields and that means we all starve."

Sebongile, one of many people to receive food and cash assistance from the Lesotho Red Cross Society and the IFRC due to an ongoing drought.

"I was shocked when one of our villagers bled to death right in front of me. That's when I decided to do something to help the wounded."

Zamaryalai, 35-year-old taxi driver, a participant in the ICRC's War Wounded Assistance programme, which trains taxi drivers to bring wounded combatants and civilians to the nearest medical facility.



Photo: REUTERS/Ismael Zerouni

ICRC helps four athletes realize a dream

Four athletes from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) represented their country at the Paralympic Games in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in September, with the support of their national paralympic committee and the ICRC. "I never expected to get this far, I'm so happy!" said Luyina Kiese Rosette, who took up athletics in 2010 after losing part of her right leg due to stepping on a landmine. Through the ICRC's physical rehabilitation programme, she received treatment and an orthopaedic device. In Rio, Rosette and fellow athlete Tolombo Kitete Crispin competed in the shot-put and javelin. Two other athletes from the DRC — Mwangani Mabonze John and Kinzonzi Kaba Paul — competed in the track events.

Volunteers respond to Gabon election violence

Intensive preparation before recent elections helped the Gabonese Red Cross Society respond to election-related violence that reportedly left 15 people dead and more than 100 injured. As part of a contingency plan developed by the National Society, 110 volunteers were deployed nationwide to provide assistance to the injured. IFRC emergency funds also supported pre-election training and simulation exercises for 2,000 volunteers and civil protection staff. Dielvic Mbadinga, 31, a member of the National Disaster Response Team, was one of them. "Though we are faced with regular stops at barricades during our interventions, I keep calm and remain focused," he explained. "Each time we are stopped... we explain our mission

and the assistance we are providing to communities."

Massive yellow fever campaign in Angola

It was one of the largest mass vaccination campaigns against yellow fever ever attempted in Africa: Red Cross volunteers fanned out across Angola and the Democratic Republic of the Congo to aid in the response. Since the first confirmed reports of yellow fever in Angola in January 2016, mass vaccination campaigns have now covered most of the affected areas. The volunteers vaccinated people and explained the importance of the vaccinations and how families can protect themselves from the mosquito-borne disease. One recent campaign targeted 3 million people in 18 districts.

Humanitarian index

6: Percentage of all global aid that is given in the form of cash programming.*

10: Number of Yemen Red Crescent Society volunteers to die in the line of duty in Yemen since March 2015.**

54: Number of Syrian Arab Red Crescent staff and volunteers who have lost their lives while carrying out their humanitarian duties since 2013. In addition, eight volunteers for the Palestinian Red Cross Society have lost their lives in the line of

duty during the Syrian conflict.**

66: Percentage of ambulance drivers in Karachi, Pakistan who said they had experienced either verbal or physical violence in the previous year.***

70: Percentage by which maize production fell in Lesotho in 2015, due to prolonged El Niño-related drought.**

879: Number of yellow fever cases confirmed in Angola since the outbreak was first identified in January 2016. A total of 369 people

died of the disease in the same period.**

2,400: Number of Red Crescent volunteers and staff deployed by the Saudi Red Crescent Authority to offer first aid and other services to people engaged in the 2016 hajj pilgrimage to Mecca in Medina.**

91,703: Number of Nepali households that received cash grants from the IFRC and Nepal Red Cross Society in the 15 months following the April 2015 earthquake.**

Sources: *Overseas Development Institute, United Kingdom; **IFRC; ***ICRC.

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Articles, letters to the editors and other correspondence should be addressed to:
Red Cross Red Crescent
P.O. Box 303, CH-1211 Geneva 19, Switzerland
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Editor
Malcolm Lucard

Production Officer
Paul Lemerise

Design
Baseline Arts Ltd, Oxford, UK

Layout
New Internationalist, Oxford, UK

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on chlorine-free paper by Artgraphic Cavin SA, Switzerland

Editorial board

ICRC Mohini Ghai Kramer Dorothea Krimitsas Nicolas Von Arx	IFRC Benoit Carpentier Maureen McKenna Nina de Rochefort
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On the cover: The case for cash: cash grants can offer recipients such as 36-year-old Amrit Silwal more choices than traditional forms of aid. A resident of Lalitpur, Nepal, Silwal used a cash grant he received as part of a British Red Cross livelihoods programme to invest in higher-value vegetables rather than his usual crops of rice and wheat. The grants were part of recovery efforts following Nepal's 2015 earthquake. Photo: Carlo Heathcote/IFRC; Illustration: Michelle Thompson

Photos this page from top: Poul Henning Nielsen/Danish Red Cross; Carlo Heathcote/IFRC; Marwan Tahtah/ICRC; Virginie Nguyen Hoang/ICRC; Kenny Karpov/IFRC.



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The case for cash

In many cases, the simple act of giving money — instead of only material goods — may be the most efficient and effective way to give people the buying power they need to direct their own recovery.

WHEN AN EARTHQUAKE measuring 7.8 on the Richter scale wreaked havoc on coastal Ecuador in April 2016, the world of 50-year-old Salvador Muñoz was turned upside down. The quake left his family homeless and his home-based tailoring business in ruins.

But the disaster could not take away one thing: Muñoz's entrepreneurial spirit — something he says he picked up as a small boy. With a cash grant from the Ecuadorian Red Cross, he built a shop using tarpaulins and canes, where he sells takeout food at night. Muñoz also managed to fix one of his sewing machines to repair clothes for people who live nearby.

Back in business, Muñoz feels optimistic. "Our suffering is over, now it's time to stand up with our

heads held high and take back what the earthquake has stolen from us," he says.

This is exactly the kind of result that proponents of cash transfer programming say a carefully planned injection of money can have — empowering recipients to address their needs in the most efficient and dignified way possible.

As the community began to recover from the initial shock, the Red Cross started providing economic support with the aim of reactivating family livelihoods and stimulating the local economy. Each family received a debit card with US\$200 to cover immediate, basic needs, says Sonia Cárdenas, a livelihood officer with the Ecuadorian Red Cross. By the end of September, the cash transfer initiative — implemented in coordination with the IFRC — had reached roughly 2,000 families in eight communities.

Cash was just part of the response, however. Moments after the first tremor, the Ecuadorian Red Cross



The people shown in this illustration were all participants in cash grant programmes offered by the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement: in Kenya, following drought in 2014; Nepal following the April 2015 earthquake, and in Myanmar, after flooding in 2015.

Illustration: Michelle Thompson. Photo credits, left to right: Poul Henning Nielsen/Danish Red Cross; Carlo Heathcote/IFRC; Poul Henning Nielsen/Danish Red Cross

“Our suffering is over, now it’s time to stand up with our heads held high and take back what the earthquake has stolen from us.”

Salvador Muñoz, survivor of the April 2016 earthquake in Ecuador

was on the scene, pulling people from the rubble, supporting other rescue agencies, delivering food, water and blankets, helping to install water and sanitation systems and giving talks on health and community organization.

Within this mix of emergency responses, cash transfers will play an important role. Delivered in a variety of forms, from hard currency to unconditional electronic payments or vouchers for specific items, cash is becoming more commonplace as a means to assist people in crises.

From Ecuador to Myanmar, Nepal to Somalia, Viet Nam to Canada, cash transfers are now an integral part of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement’s aid operations. Since 2010, more than half of all IFRC emergency appeals included cash as an element of the response and, in the first eight months of 2016, 85 per cent included some form of cash transfer.

Cash is nothing new, however. Red Cross volunteers provided cash during the 1870–1871 Franco–Prussian War and at numerous times since. It’s generally agreed among aid agencies that the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami was a turning point for cash as aid after numerous agencies began piloting cash programmes there as an alternative to in-kind aid.

What is new is the volume and scale of cash transfer programming. Though cash programming makes up only 6 per cent of the money spent in aid distribution worldwide, according to the Overseas Development Institute (ODI), the practice has gone mainstream, with nearly all major aid agencies offering cash in some form during their response to major emergencies.

Aid with dignity

Why is cash coming to the fore now? “With more people living in urban areas, we are responding

more and more to urban disasters so cash is increasingly viable because people have easier access to markets and the systems needed to sustain cash transfers,” says Claire Durham, IFRC senior officer for Cash Transfer Programming Innovations.

And even in rural areas, technology is making cash programming more viable as people increasingly use mobile phones for everything from paying debts to monitoring their bank accounts and buying goods at local stores, she adds.

With conflicts lasting longer and the fallout of other crises having long-term consequences, aid agencies are turning to more creative ways to help people restart or create livelihoods while providing assistance that boosts, rather than competes with, local markets, a critical part of long-term stability and recovery.

At the same time, there has been a growing movement within the aid world to find solutions that give more choice and power to beneficiaries — one reason a high-level panel at the recent World Humanitarian Summit in Istanbul in May 2016 came out strongly in favour of greater use of cash in emergencies.

Increasingly, experts advocate for the use of cash grants like the ones in Ecuador that are referred to as ‘unconditional’, meaning it’s up to recipients to use the money to buy what they most need from local markets. With unconditional grants, aid agencies often make recommendations but recipients ultimately decide.

Given the diverse needs many people face after a crisis, aid agencies have come to realize that cash grants with few or no restrictions can help people address a greater variety of needs than restricted grants (to be used only to buy food at particular vendors, for example) or the mass distribution of identical items.

It’s about choice but it’s also about dignity. “When you give cash, you are giving choice; the people can decide more what they need,” says Geraud Devred, a cash and market specialist with the ICRC in the Kenyan capital, Nairobi. “So you are less paternalistic than when you are distributing goods.”

“The market is key to understanding what response is most appropriate.”

Geraud Devred, cash and market specialist with the ICRC in Nairobi, Kenya

☺ Cash grants are rarely provided on their own. In the years following Typhoon Haiyan in 2013, for example, the Philippine Red Cross and the ICRC provided cash grants (along with shelter materials) to help people regain livelihoods such as rice production, which both generate income and ease concerns about food insecurity. Photo: Jez Aznar/ICRC

Changing views

The way cash in aid is perceived is also changing. Once viewed with scepticism due to concerns that cash grants would be more susceptible to abuse than material goods, cash distribution is now seen by some as a more efficient and transparent means of providing aid in cases where local markets are able to provide basic commodities.

In its 2015 report on cash transfers, ODI and the Centre for Global Development pointed to more than 200 evaluations and in-depth studies and concluded that “evidence suggests that in many contexts cash is a better way to help people and stimulate markets”.

“The obvious concerns about cash — that it might cause inflation for key goods in local markets, be more prone to abuse and corruption or diversion, or... be more likely to be controlled by men and so disadvantage women — are not borne out by the evidence,” according to the study.

The panel of experts convened to produce the report did not deny that misuse of unconditional grants is a concern — but it’s not necessarily more susceptible to corruption than material or in-kind aid. To back up their point, the report cites examples in which aid recipients sold the goods given to them in order to buy other things they needed more. On the other hand, the report says, certain types of cash transfers (such as digital cash transfers via mobile phone) provide better means of monitoring and assessing spending patterns than traditional in-kind goods.

“Donors and aid agencies developing humanitarian responses should routinely consider cash transfers as the ‘first best’ response to crises,” the ODI’s panel of experts concludes. Instead of looking first for reasons not to use cash as aid, the report proposes: “The question that should be asked is ‘why not cash?’”

That said, cash is not suitable for every situation. In its *Guidelines for Cash Interventions in Somalia*, Horn Relief (now African Development Solutions) lists some of the conditions in which cash interventions are not appropriate: when disruption to the local market is severe and emergency goods are required more quickly than markets can provide; when there is a high risk of inflation (due to limited goods or lack of traders in the market); or if cash grants left recipients vulnerable to attack or theft, among other concerns.

‘Never going back’

Even in places of high insecurity, however, cash provides some advantages. Digital cash transfers, for example, allow recipients to continue receiving cash transfers without having to return to a specific location. This reduces the risk of being exposed to danger when gathering to receive aid. This form of cash distribution also eliminates the risks and costs



associated with importing, transporting and distributing in-kind supplies into insecure areas.

Martin Kenny, a cash and market specialist with the ICRC's Somalia delegation in Nairobi, says the ICRC offers three types of cash transfer programmes in Somalia: unconditional cash grants to support people in the initial stages following a critical event; conditional cash grants to help people establish, re-start or expand a business; and cash-for-work, which seeks to rehabilitate infrastructure such as rain water catchments and irrigation canals.

"These projects have a long-term effect," Kenny says. "If you rehabilitate a canal, it allows more farmers to grow more food, whether it's for sale or personal consumption, which can lead to increasing their livelihood capacity."

And despite being unable to send staff to some parts of Somalia, the ICRC can still support people in need through electronic cash transfers that make use of the established mobile phone network in the country. "Even in areas that are completely cut off, you still find a functioning market economy to some extent, which encouraged us to try cash transfers," Kenny adds.

Another potential advantage of cash is speed. Following the devastating wildfires in the Canadian province of Alberta earlier this year, the Canadian Red Cross Society joined forces with the Royal Bank of Canada to quickly develop a digital platform for cash transfers. Just over a week after the fires forced the entire population of Fort McMurray to flee their homes, the Canadian Red Cross distributed 50 million Canadian dollars to the mobile phones of thousands of evacuees.

"For the Canadian Red Cross, there is no way back now," says Jean-Philippe Tizi, vice president of the National Society's disaster management team. "This digital-based assistance is new and super-effective and, at times of major emergencies, it's a must."

One reason cash was seen as extremely practical is that victims of the fires who had lost homes or jobs had dispersed to different cities. Cash was the most flexible way to give each individual the help they needed.

It's not about replacing in-kind donations with cash, however. In the early days following the disaster, the Canadian Red Cross also provided a range of services, from distributing blankets and food items to providing accommodations and emotional support.

Understanding the markets

The trick with each emergency is to find right balance of assistance, depending on the needs and what is happening in local markets. That's why it's critical that humanitarian organizations don't just understand what people need, but how the things they give will impact local markets.



As part of the recovery effort after Typhoon Haiyan, a cash distribution team from the Philippine Red Cross and the IFRC register community members who will receive unconditional cash grants. Photo: Patrick Fuller/IFRC

What do recipients say?

"Cash allowed me to open a business processing cow skins. I buy fresh cow skin at the market, which I cut and resell. With the money gained as profit, I pay for my children to study, which is the most important thing."

This statement, from a recipient of cash transfers in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), echoes the overall findings of a 2015 study, co-published by the IFRC and the Cash Learning Partnership (entitled *Voices and views of beneficiaries on unconditional cash transfers*).

A total of 111 participants from the DRC, Nepal and the Philippines were asked what worked and what didn't when it came to the grants they received. In general, they agreed that cash provided choice and reinforced respect for beneficiaries' dignity while providing flexibility to meet varying needs, from basics like food and household items to education for children or shelter repairs.

The majority of beneficiaries in the DRC also said receiving cash allowed them to make decisions on how best to restore their livelihoods. Unlike vocational training or obtaining vouchers for specific goods, cash empowers beneficiaries to affect their own economic destiny.

Cash also allowed recipients to re-engage in social commitments, such as debts or joint investments, an important part of the culture in the three countries studied. Among the countless challenges and disruptions, being able to contribute and make joint decisions made recipients feel empowered and respected.

Several men and women credited cash with ending their sense of humiliation: "Receiving cash ended my humiliation," said one recipient in the Philippines. "Before I had no dress, no pan or bed. All of this was humiliating. The cash released me and returned me to independence."

Nonetheless, some also said the cash aid distributed was not enough to fully meet their multiple needs, such as paying school fees, covering debts or paying for major expenditures like constructing a permanent home. One recipient described the cash support as a 'nudge in the right direction', while others said the cash helped provide temporary stability, but it was not enough to ensure longer-term recovery.

One of the biggest challenges ahead, according to the report, is how to realize the full promise of cash — giving recipients a greater role in determining the amount, timing and type of aid given. "A deeper systemic revamp is needed to put in place structures and practices to effectively bring beneficiaries in humanitarian emergencies into decisions about the planning, deployment and ongoing implementation of the assistance they receive," the report observes.

Humanitarians have long understood that the mass importation of goods into countries undergoing a crisis can have negative effects. Despite this, it has been the increased use of cash that has raised awareness within the humanitarian sphere about market dynamics. "Cash is definitely helping to trigger this reflection about markets," notes Claire Holman, cash officer in IFRC's Disaster and Crisis Pre-

Maintaining a healthy marketplace

Saadiya Ahmed raises a small axe and splits a butchered goat's leg in two. Then, with remarkable deftness, she cuts the meat into smaller chunks. One of the female butchers at Daraawista market in Beletweyne, Somalia, Ahmed aims to achieve a regular income by selling one goat per day.

"It will enable me to pay my household bills and take my children to hospital when they fall sick," says Ahmed, who settled in Beletweyne after fleeing Mogadishu, leaving her extended family behind. With children to feed, she used the only money she had to venture into the meat business.

Most of the stalls in the Daraawista market are run by women, who arrive as early as 6 in the morning to sell firewood, charcoal, vegetables or meat. With all the chopping and loud bargaining, the meat section is the noisiest place in the market — just one sign of the vibrant livestock trade in Beletweyne, Somalia's fourth-largest city. The town hosts two livestock markets and four slaughter compounds, and work begins well before daybreak.

The animals are slaughtered on bare ground and cleaned with water from the River Shabelle, which cuts across the town. There are no meat inspections and the meat is transported on donkey carts directly to the traders.

With health and hygiene an obvious concern, the ICRC will this year support more than 400 women butchers with training on hygienic meat handling and kits that contain a set of knives, gloves, two aprons and a wheelbarrow. Nearly 50 of these women, Ahmed included, are from Beletweyne.

"The majority of the women butchers have not received any training on meat handling," says Massimo Zecchini, ICRC's livestock specialist in Somalia. "Hygienic meat preparation can reduce illnesses from preventable food-borne diseases."



🕒 Livestock on the way to market near Beletweyne, Somalia. Photo: ICRC

In addition, ICRC livestock specialists have been training community animal health workers in livestock disease control so they can offer animal health services to people in remote and inaccessible pastoralist areas. The ICRC has also built three livestock veterinary clinics staffed by veterinary officers and equipped with analysis laboratories. Three more are currently under construction.

"Frequent veterinary consultations and availability of good-quality drugs are two ways to ensure the community eats and sells healthy meat," says Zecchini. "The animals will also produce more milk. In the long run the animals will sell for a higher price at the market, increasing family income."

To learn more about the challenges facing women in Somalia's markets, see www.rcrcmagazine.org

vention, Response and Recovery department. "It's a very positive development."

New tools for rapid analysis

But how do aid workers analyse markets in the wake of an emergency, when there is little time for in-depth research and analysis? To address this question, the ICRC, the IFRC, the American Red Cross and the British Red Cross teamed up to develop tools to help staff quickly assess local markets after a shock and decide whether to respond with cash, in-kind aid or a combination of the two.

Released in 2014, the Rapid Assessment of Markets (RAM) guide and the more detailed Market Analysis Guidance (MAG) are designed to help emergency assessment teams integrate market analysis into initial fact-finding to ensure that aid, in whatever form, stimulates and nurtures the local economy, rather than triggering price rises or stifling market recovery and growth. "The market is key to understanding what response is most appropriate," says Devred.

The foundation of these assessments are visits to local marketplaces, individual and focus-group discussions with key traders and suppliers, analyses of government or trade-group data where available, and interviews with potential aid recipients.

"For the Canadian Red Cross, there is no way back now. This digital-based assistance is new and super-effective and, at times of major emergencies, it's a must."

Jean-Philippe Tizi of the Canadian Red Cross Society's disaster management team

The basic goal is to determine how a given shock has affected people's access to essential commodities and to identify how to help people get those goods in ways that support local markets and work within "the formal and informal institutions, rules, and norms that govern these interactions", according to the guidelines.

To attain a basic understanding of these variables, the guidelines offer a list of questions: what are the key commodities people need? Where can those commodities be purchased and for how much? Is there competition on the market or do some suppliers control prices collectively? What is the state of the labour market? How do families get most of their incomes and how has the crisis affected those livelihoods? What are the prices for these commodities from the point of production to distribution and retail?

"In the beginning, we try to understand the functioning of the [local] market, as well as the security situation that may influence the access of local populations to the markets," says Jules Amoti, head of the cash-programming sector at the ICRC's economic security unit in Geneva. "We also try to understand the flow of commodities, the financial capacity of people to purchase those goods, the cash transfer mechanisms available in the market

and all the social factors around the use of cash in the community.”

While the rapid assessment might provide enough basic data to guide interventions for four to six weeks, continuous monitoring is encouraged as prices and volumes change over time. Responders can then adjust their response, whether in-kind or cash, based on the evolving situation.

Challenges ahead

Ideally, those responding to any given event or crisis will already have collected market data as part of disaster preparedness activities or as part of long-term relief operations in prolonged crisis. One of the biggest challenges facing the Movement now is to develop greater capacity to assess markets and, when deemed appropriate, to rapidly deploy cash transfers as a potential response.

Many National Societies, for example, have not yet put the pieces in place — legal agreements with banks and telecom companies, training of volunteers in cash distributions, garnering support of governments, communities and donors — to be able to react quickly with cash in the event of a disaster. In cases where National Societies do not yet have systems in place, the IFRC helps them set up systems with relevant banks and to craft agreements with third parties (banks, telecom companies, retailers, etc.).

While the technical aspects can be set up relatively quickly, lack of preparedness can delay a cash response by weeks and, in some cases, months, particularly when National Societies or governments have never implemented cash programmes before. “This is why we are encouraging more National Societies to prepare for cash transfers, so they can respond quickly as soon as crisis hits,” says Holman.

Similarly, capacity for market assessment and cash deployment within ICRC is far from universal and so the organization has, since 2012, begun investing more heavily in staff training in market assessment and use of cash programming.

More broadly, aid agencies also see the need to improve the overall quality of assessment, selection of recipients and monitoring to minimize the chances that cash could be corrupted to support armed groups, run afoul of anti-terror legislation or simply be used in a way that does not help people get back on their feet. Aid agencies must also ensure the personal data taken from recipients to make electronic payments are secure.

Degan Ali, executive director of the Nairobi-based African Development Solutions and one of the pioneers of cash programming, says that over time, data management functions should be taken on by governments, who would develop data protection legislation and practices (see editorial, page 1).

When governments are not able to fulfil this role, a neutral agency might be appointed.

Another issue is the ‘sectorization’ of cash, in which various agencies provide cash only for their specific speciality — cash for food, cash for livelihoods, cash for shelter. “As aid groups offering cash proliferate, refugees or displaced persons must go from organization to organization, each time answering the same questions in order to get specific services or goods from each agency,” says Ali, who would like to see international aid groups collaborate more widely on standard systems whereby recipients must only register once, then receive a card that can be used by a variety of agencies. While this has been done in some domestic and long-term international emergencies, cooperation mechanisms for large international responses are still far from the norm. ■

By **Nick Jones**

Nick Jones is a freelance journalist and editor based in Tokyo, Japan.

☺ Cash grants were part of an ICRC micro-economic initiative that helped a local woman build a network of women handicraft weavers in the lyakkachchi community of Pallai, Sri Lanka.

Photo: Tuan Zaharan/ICRC



Building on a strong market

As cash grants help Nepali families recover from the April 2015 earthquake, a vibrant marketplace for goods and services provides a foundation for recovery.

IN THE GREEN-CARPETED HILLS overlooking the Sun Koshi River, about four hours' drive south-east of Nepal's capital, Kathmandu, Pabitra Bhujel looks on as workmen begin work on the foundation of her new home.

For the widowed mother of three, life in the makeshift, metal-roofed cottage she has shared with her children and mother-in-law since the April 2015 earthquake has been difficult: cold in the winter, broiling in the summer and "the rain drumming on the roof makes a noise that keeps us awake at night".

Work on Bhujel's new home began almost immediately after she, and five neighbours, each received 70,000 Nepali rupees (US\$ 645), the first tranche of a cash grant from the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement that will help them to begin work on earthquake-resistant foundations.

They are to receive further instalments for the walls and roof once this has been done in compliance with government guidelines, so they can complete the structure.

The grants are the latest in a series of Movement cash transfer programmes, implemented in this mountainous country since the April 2015 earthquake and its aftershocks, which killed nearly 9,000 people and left around 600,000 houses destroyed and another 285,000 damaged.

From the beginning, cash has been a critical part of the Movement's overall emergency response in Nepal, together with the provision of food, water and sanitation, healthcare and basic household items. Just a couple of months after the quake, more than

41,000 families received unconditional cash grants to buy desperately needed shelter materials. Further payments in December 2015–January 2016 helped nearly 50,000 families purchase winter clothes and blankets. Some of the most vulnerable farming families have also been given grants for tools and seeds to help them restart their livelihoods.

As the provision of unconditional cash in emergencies becomes increasingly common, the Nepal experience has shown that when local markets are still functioning, cash can provide a quick and effective way to get aid directly to people in need at times when disruption and damage to key infrastructure make distribution of supplies costly and difficult — particularly in remote, mountainous areas.

The market survived

As the Nepal Red Cross Society and its Movement partners begin providing cash to help people rebuild their homes in a more earthquake-resistant manner, they will be looking carefully at local markets for material and labour to ensure the job can be done correctly. Fortunately, those markets, which have been a critical asset in the country's recovery, continue to function adequately even if there have been shortages of some important materials.

"Unlike in many other countries [after a disaster], the markets in Nepal didn't collapse," says Umesh Dhakal, head of the Nepal Red Cross's Earthquake Response Operation, noting, however, that after the

Cash for shelter Three stages of rebuilding



* To be provided once construction of the foundation and walls is complete, in compliance with government building codes and earthquake-resistance guidelines.

** To be provided once construction of the foundation is complete, in compliance with government building codes and earthquake-resistance guidelines.

The Red Cross Red Crescent cash transfers account for just part of the more than 500,000 homes that need rebuilding, with the rest being supported by the government and other actors.



quake there was an immediate shortage of commodities such as tents and tarpaulins.

“Even the rich with their big houses and their fleets of cars were in the streets at that time,” he says, “so there was no difference between rich people and poor people” as everyone scrambled to buy whatever supplies were available.

This is not to say the markets weren’t under stress. Natural disaster and political tensions combined to add to survivors’ woes as discontent over Nepal’s proposed new constitution triggered a blockade of the country’s vital border with India. Constricting the flow of goods and driving up the price of fuel and other vital goods, “the blockade had a massive impact on the markets”, says Max Santner, head of the IFRC’s Country Office.

In such situations, aid workers must also pay attention to what infusions of cash might do to local economies. Will they increase demand for certain goods and, therefore, drive prices higher? Santner feels the IFRC’s cash infusions — while very important to individual families — have not played a significant role in causing inflation when compared to other, much larger, market forces.

Post-distribution monitoring after the winter cash grants’ distribution showed that 95 per cent of respondents felt prices had indeed increased since the cash was given out. This is hardly surprising, however, given the price hikes in fuel caused by the blockade, on top of a history of steady inflation in recent years.

Further, a close examination of price trends in local markets revealed a more complex picture, ac-

➦ In the Dolakha region of Nepal, the IFRC, Nepal Red Cross and Swiss Red Cross train local masons and builders in improved earthquake-resistant construction techniques. Such skills are an essential foundation for using cash grants to help people rebuild their homes using local labour and materials. Photo: Carlo Heathcote/IFRC

“Unlike in many other countries [after a disaster], the markets in Nepal didn’t collapse.”

Umesh Dhakal, head of the Nepal Red Cross Society’s Earthquake Response Operation, noting, however, that after the quake there was an immediate shortage of commodities such as tents and tarpaulins

ording to IFRC delegate Jordane Hesse. “During the operation, [local Red Cross branches] tracked prices in the field for specific items like blankets and winter jackets, and also rice and sugar,” says Hesse. “There was a mix of trends depending on the location — some increases, some decreases and, in some cases, an increase followed by a decrease in prices.”

Such price tracking is an important part of understanding what effect cash transfers are having — or not having — on local economies. Another key aspect is understanding what cash grants mean for each individual household. According to Anita Ghimire, a Nepali researcher who studies social protection issues, cash grants free up resources for people to devote to longer-term livelihood needs.

After the earthquake, she says, “the first priority after basic food, clothes, medicines, etc., was investing in rebuilding infrastructure such as lost houses and sheds for cattle”. Without the cash grants, such as those given for home reconstruction, there might have been a “tendency to invest much less in strategic long-term livelihoods activities, so local markets would suffer more”.

A stronger, safer foundation

Understanding broader market dynamics — including the regulatory environment, the availability of labour and the quality and quantity of essential materials — is also critical, especially when dealing with the more complex challenges associated with rebuilding homes in an earthquake-prone country.

After a disaster that laid bare many of the problems and disparities in Nepal's housing stock, the motto often invoked by the Global Shelter Cluster — to 'build back better' — takes on particular meaning. Given the scale of the reconstruction efforts and the relative shortage of required labour, the idea of building back better is one reason various components of the Movement have trained some 4,000 masons and recruited more than 40 engineers or junior engineers to help with the task.

As cash reconstruction grants are provided, each mason will work with six or seven labourers and each engineer will be stationed in one of the worst-affected communities to help provide technical support. The engineers' role will be a delicate one, making sure householders understand what's at stake and helping to mobilize support for earthquake-resistant construction, although the final inspections (and recommendations for further cash instalments) will be made by local government officials.

Getting things done properly is not just a technical challenge, however. The Red Cross engineers have also received training from Nepal Red Cross staff in community engagement and mobilization in order to better communicate why certain expenditures must be made. "It's as much social engineering as civil engineering," says Laxman Chhetry, the IFRC's senior construction coordinator and adviser in Nepal.

Graham Saunders, team leader, Global Network and Operation Practice in IFRC's Disaster and Crisis Prevention, Response and Recovery Department, based in Geneva, agrees: "It's as much about a mindset and understanding as it is about the technical aspects," he says. "The homeowners need to understand why safety is an issue; why, for example, money should be spent in the ground [on the foundations], an absolutely critical part of earthquake-resistant building but which you can't see."

Technical challenges

Saunders has also served as IFRC's liaison to the Global Shelter Cluster, which the IFRC co-chairs and

🕒 Nepali carpenter Jhamka Bahadur Sarki says, "I want to build a good strong house", as he watches a group of labourers at work on the foundations of his new home. The work is funded by a cash grant programme administered by the Nepal Red Cross and the IFRC.

Photo: Francis Markus/ICRC



which recently published a position paper on cash and markets in the shelter sector. The paper explains why there is still some reluctance to engage in unconditional cash grants when dealing with shelter.

"The use of unconditional grants does present opportunities for a certain range of shelter activities such as the provision of emergency NFIs [non-food items], tools and basic materials," the paper concludes. "However, there is significant concern from within the shelter sector that the increasing momentum behind CTP [cash transfer programming] and in particular unconditional multi-sector grants, does not take some of the specifics, complexities and technical challenges of construction into consideration."

In other words, says Saunders, the skills, experience, knowledge and materials needed to build back safely in an earthquake-prone area is a far more complex proposition than providing grants for food commodities. "When you turn to shelter and construction, you see the risks that people can put themselves under if you simply give them US\$ 1,000," he says.

Further, natural disasters and other shocks often lead to unexpected side effects that can complicate an already challenging task. After the earthquake, for example, the number of Nepalis working overseas — and who account for roughly a quarter of the country's gross domestic product — increased significantly. Finding the engineers and workers needed to rebuild hundreds of thousands of homes will be a daunting task for the multiple aid groups, private builders and government agencies involved in the reconstruction effort.

And then there's the question of energy production. The non-governmental organization Practical Action analysed markets for various construction materials and found that Nepal's chronic power shortage "is likely to have a significant impact on production capacity of cement, rebar and corrugated iron", according to project officer Rabindra Singh. "Many factory owners are procuring high-capacity generators, but this will, of course, drive up the costs."

Given these dynamics, the ongoing impacts of cash disbursements for shelter will have to be monitored closely. For the Nepal Red Cross Society, the experience with cash programming so far has shown it to be a sound response that offers the flexibility needed to deal with changing conditions in a diverse landscape. The challenge now is to continue to keep a close eye on markets, keep in touch with recipients and monitor building processes carefully so the amounts of cash or in-kind material assistance can be adjusted accordingly. As the Nepal Red Cross's Umesh Dhakal puts it: "We have to find the right balance." ■

By **Francis Markus**

Francis Markus is a writer, journalist and communicator based in Kathmandu, Nepal.



Money talks

Communication, community engagement and preparedness are key as more National Societies use cash in emergency response.

Daw San Thida Tun (above) had never seen anything like it. “The water began to rise, and we became afraid that if we stayed any longer we wouldn’t get out alive,” she says of the day when Cyclone Komen hit northern and western Myanmar, destroying her whole village. “So we fled in a boat. All we could take with us were the clothes on our backs.”

San Thida, 27, her husband and 5-year-old son survived, but they lost their home and all their belongings. In all, some 1.7 million people were temporarily displaced and almost 450,000 hectares (1.1 million acres) of farmland inundated. Water supplies were contaminated, latrines flooded and livelihoods interrupted or lost completely.

Given the diversity of people’s needs, unconditional cash grants were judged to be effective to help people get back on their feet. Backed by an IFRC emergency appeal, the ICRC and additional funds raised domestically by the Myanmar Red Cross Society, unconditional cash grants were distributed in five of the 12 states where emergency operations were ongoing.

San Thida used her cash grant to buy the land her temporary house stands on and install a well. She also bought some concrete foundation blocks to build a permanent home once her family can buy the rest of the materials they need. “If we hadn’t received [the cash grant], we would have had an extremely difficult time,” she says.

Learning experience

A follow-up report on the cash transfer operation found a vast majority of participants agreed with San Thida — the grants had a positive impact on their recovery. This was a gratifying result for the Myanmar Red Cross’s first widespread use of unconditional cash transfers in the immediate wake of a natural disaster.

The National Society had used vouchers for livestock after Cyclone Nargis and a cash transfer project in Rakhine continues to offer conditional grants to small business owners. But as in many countries, cash as a form of emergency assistance is still a new concept here.

For this reason, communication and community engagement were critical. Understanding local practices and communication networks ensured recipients understood important information and had a voice in the process, according to the follow-up report prepared by the IFRC, the American Red Cross and the Myanmar Red Cross.

The Myanmar Red Cross’s ability to work with village recovery committees helped identify and select recipients, build trust for data collection and establish a feedback and complaint mechanism. The committees also helped address complaints and settle minor disagreements between recipients.

The village committees also helped break down language barriers, as not everyone speaks Burmese, the predominant language in Myanmar. Because banners and posters describing the programme, and the selection criteria, could not be readily understood by all, the village committees could share information verbally.

The overall aim was to put people at the centre of the response, provide timely and relevant information and foster trust and accountability by creating mechanisms for receiving both positive and negative feedback. Another key tool was a telephone hotline for receiving complaints or questions.

Getting ready for cash

Because this was a new programme launched during the emergency phase of the relief operation, there was limited time for capacity building of staff and volunteers. Some had received previous training, but many were introduced to cash transfers for the first time. Meanwhile, many volunteers were themselves affected by the floods, so others came in from elsewhere in Myanmar. Ultimately, the project was extremely successful, but all these factors led to some initial delays in implementation, assessment, distribution, monitoring and evaluation.

For National Societies hoping to get cash out to communities quickly, the follow-up report recommends investment to ensure there is sufficient staff with the necessary skills to allow for a reasonable division of workload. This investment should be done in the disaster preparedness phase — with community involvement — so that communication and community engagement can begin well before crisis strikes. ■

By Mandy George

Mandy George is a community engagement and accountability adviser in the IFRC’s Myanmar delegation.

Lives in limbo



🕒 A Jordanian midwife holds the first Syrian baby born in the Red Cross and Red Crescent hospital in the al Azraq camp in Jordan. Photo: IFRC

In a field hospital at the al Azraq refugee camp, just 100 kilometres from the Syrian border in northern Jordan, a baby is born to a woman fleeing conflict in Syria. The birth is a sign of hope for a mother who has lost two young children, a husband and her home to the conflict. Still, this child faces an uncertain future. If peace comes to Syria, perhaps the child and her mother will be able to go home. Perhaps they will be granted asylum in a country far away where they can make a new life, far from bombs and bloodshed. Or, as is all too common in today's conflicts, the child will end up a stateless being, living into adulthood in a refugee camp originally assembled as a temporary solution to an immediate need. Perhaps she will attend one of the schools offered by international non-governmental organizations and, if the conflict persists, even go away to college and return as many in the world's oldest camps

have done. The plight of such stateless souls has been highlighted by Kenya's intention to close the complex of camps not far from the town of Dadaab, near the border with Somalia, which together make up one of the oldest refugee settlements on earth. It is also the biggest, with some 400,000 residents, mainly displaced Somalis. These photos provide a quick global tour of some of the world's oldest camps, set up as temporary solutions decades ago, as well as some of the newest camps. Will these newer camps become the next Dadaabs? Or will solutions be found that allow the world's refugees, migrants and displaced to finally return to, or find, a permanent, peaceful home?

🕒 Now more than 25 years old, the Kakuma refugee camp, north-west of Kenya's capital Nairobi, is the second largest in Kenya after the better-known complex of camps in Dadaab, near the border with Somalia. These recently constructed houses in Kakuma are an indication of the camp's continued growth since its founding in 1991 as a safe haven for roughly 12,000 unaccompanied minors and others fleeing violence in Sudan. Photo: REUTERS/Thomas Mukoya





Established five years ago for Syrians fleeing civil war, the al Zaatari refugee camp in northern Jordan has quickly grown from 15,000 inhabitants to more than 80,000 people. Already, the camp shows signs of permanent settlement as residents make the best of their desperate situation. There are markets for clothes, electronics and food; coffee shops where men smoke sheesha pipes, even football tournaments. Here, Syrian children watch the final match in a camp tournament that coincided with the 2014 World Cup.

Photo: REUTERS/Muhammad Hamed



The al Azraq camp, east of Jordan's capital, Amman, was built in 2013 as the population of Jordan's al Zaatari camp grew beyond capacity. Below, a Syrian woman shops in one of the camp's grocery stores after receiving humanitarian shopping vouchers.

Photo: REUTERS/Muhammad Hamed



Education is one of the greatest challenges facing refugees around the world and aid groups are struggling to meet the need. Here, Syrian refugee children sit in a UNICEF-supported classroom at a remedial education centre in the al Azraq refugee camp in Jordan.

Photo: REUTERS/Muhammad Hamed

Focus

➔ A 1948 photo from the ICRC archives shows the Jelazone camp, located in the West Bank, roughly 20 kilometres north of Jerusalem. Now, almost seven decades later, it looks and functions like a small town of some 15,000 inhabitants. Photo: ICRC

🕒 Though usually referred to as ‘camps’, many of the world’s oldest refugee settlements look, at least from the outside, more like city neighbourhoods. The Deheishe refugee camp in the West Bank town of Bethlehem is one example. Three generations of Palestinians have grown up in this camp, established after the 1948 Arab–Israeli war.

Photo: REUTERS/Ammar Awad



🕒 While many people have heard of the Dadaab camp in Kenya, or Yarmouk in the suburbs of Damascus, Syria, some of the world’s oldest camps are less well known. The Mae La refugee camp in Thailand, for example, is one of the oldest refugee settlements in the world. Established more than 30 years ago, Mae La is home to some 50,000 people, most of whom fled violence and persecution in neighbouring Myanmar during the 1980s and 1990s. Photo: REUTERS/Chaiwat Subprasom





As new waves of violence cause displacement — both within countries and across borders — new camps are formed almost every month. Will these new camps be temporary or will residents end up spending their entire lives in these makeshift environments? Will the young girl pictured here live out her days away from the neighbourhood where she was born? The girl and her parents live at M’Poko camp, set up at the airport in Bangui, the capital of Central African Republic, after violence and civil strife rocked the country in 2013.

Photo: Virginie Nguyen Hoang/ICRC



After election-related violence in 2015 in Burundi forced more than 300,000 people to flee to neighbouring countries, long-established camps such as the already overcrowded, 20-year-old Nyarugusu camp in Tanzania were pushed to breaking point. Newly arriving refugees, such as the family pictured here, were brought to the recently reopened Mtendeli refugee camp, where the Tanzania Red Cross National Society operates a hospital and offers a range of health services.

Photo: Niki Clark/American Red Cross



Education in crisis

With more people on the move than ever before, conflicts lasting years and chronic violence on the rise in many areas, millions of children are deprived of even a basic education.

FROM THE SPRAWLING ROWS of tents of the Dadaab refugee camps in eastern Kenya, to the slopes of Mount Olympus in Greece and the cramped apartments in long-time refugee settlements in Lebanon and Syria, the world's approximately 65 million displaced people are spread far and wide.

Underlying their dire circumstances and their difficult living conditions is a less visible but silently growing crisis. As conflicts become ever more protracted and chronic violence in some places becomes a permanent fact of life, more and more children enter adulthood deprived of a meaningful education.

Or, as in the case of 25-year-old Salim Salamah, their learning is rudely interrupted. Salamah grew up as a child refugee in the besieged Yarmouk Palestinian refugee camp outside Damascus, Syria. Because the six-decades-old Yarmouk camp had over time become a relatively stable community, Salamah was able to pursue a law degree until the Syrian conflict forced him to become a double refugee.

“Access to education does not mean only going to school or the availability of teachers,” he told *Red Cross Red Crescent* magazine. “It means also there is an environment within the family or community that can support the educational process.”

Children need to get to school safely and feel safe when they are there. Parents cannot be so poor they need their children to work or beg to survive. Communities need stability so they can invest in the future.

With crises in many parts of the world lasting for decades and no end in sight to the causes driving mass displacement or chronic violence, these are critical challenges underlying the growing need for education in emergencies.

Growing demand

Faced with mounting demand, leading humanitarian organizations (including the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement) have joined calls for more to be done to bring education to people in desperate need. Two high-profile international summits held in 2016 both produced education-related commitments.

The inaugural World Humanitarian Summit held in Istanbul in May 2016, highlighted the fact that only 2 per cent of humanitarian funding is directed towards education. In response, the Education Cannot Wait fund was launched with the aim of pooling US\$ 3.85 billion over five years to ensure that all crisis-affected children and youth have safe, free and quality education by 2030.

Then, in September, world leaders gathered for a refugee-focused Leader’s Summit pledged US\$ 4.5 billion in humanitarian aid to increase places for global resettlement and facilitate school enrolment, classroom construction, teacher training and streamlining refugee education programmes.

For many in the Movement, there is no doubt that education is a humanitarian imperative.

“Under international humanitarian law, there are explicit rules that are aimed at ensuring that, in situations of armed conflict, education can continue and that students, teachers and educational facilities are protected”, says Geoff Loane, who is coordinating discussion around emergency education within the ICRC. “Most importantly, education is what displaced people and others affected by crisis are asking for.”

In other contexts outside conflict, the IFRC and National Societies are exploring new initiatives while examining what they can do to expand existing programmes. “Usually, [education] is the responsibility of governments, which is a role we don’t substitute,” says Tiziana Bonzon, migration lead at the IFRC. In the context of migration, the IFRC supports National Society efforts to facilitate access to educational

📍 In the town of Kodok, South Sudan, a boy stands in a shuttered school, where classes have been closed for months after fighting intensified in the area.

Photo: Jason Straziuso/ICRC

institutions, provide basic education services and promote a culture of tolerance that helps children in marginalized groups feel safer and welcomed in school settings.

What the Movement is doing

Around the world, however, the Movement’s educational initiatives are extremely diverse and very context specific, based on local needs, the particular histories of each country and the crisis they are going through. Most Movement educational endeavours revolve around humanitarian concerns, such as instructing communities about hygiene, first aid or disaster risk reduction; explaining the importance of respecting international humanitarian law (IHL) to armed forces or armed groups; working with youth in local communities and schools to reduce the impact of violence; or vocational training to help people get back on their feet after a shock.

In some cases, the education offered by Movement components is extremely specialized: medical training in hospitals run by National Societies; ICRC courses in war surgery or IHL; veterinary training for the protection of livestock in war-affected areas; partnerships with academic institutions on studies of humanitarian affairs, among others.

For people living with conflict or in areas of chronic violence, or who are displaced by fighting or natural disaster, the Movement generally aims to support the education offered in local schools, create safe spaces in which education can succeed or enable access to education for those who may be deprived due to lack of resources, security or societal acceptance.

In areas affected by high levels of chronic violence in Latin America, for example, the ICRC works with National Societies and local authorities to promote behaviour among young people conducive to reducing armed violence.

Ongoing in some 100 schools in Brazil, Colombia, Honduras and Mexico, the projects are usually linked to broader, local efforts to reduce the impact of violence, such as teaching students how to respond to violent incidents, training youth in first-aid, raising awareness of humanitarian principles and promoting safer access to healthcare.

Combined, such initiatives help provide a more learning-friendly backdrop. In the state of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, for example, schools involved in the project reported an increased ability to hire and retain teachers, improved pupil achievement and a reduction in drop-out rates.

Filling gaps, enabling access

While none of this involves directly providing the kind of general education — reading, writing, maths, science, history, the arts — that many are

“Access to education does not mean only going to school or the availability of teachers... It means there is an environment within the family or community that can support the educational process.”

Salim Salamah, 25, whose education was interrupted when he had to flee the Yarmouk refugee camp in Syria due to fighting

calling for urgently, these initiatives do make a critical contribution.

“One thing we already do in some contexts is work to eliminate the barriers — or the gaps in protection — that get in the way of children going to school,” says Hugo van den Eertwegh, a security management and risk adviser for the ICRC.

It’s often a multi-disciplinary effort, adds Monique Nanchen, child protection adviser for the ICRC. “Our water and habitat teams, for example, work to renovate, stabilize and make school buildings safer for children,” she says. “Delegates in some cases help schools create evacuation plans and conduct drills or work with National Society volunteers or other partners to explain to students how to avoid the risks of mines or unexploded shells.”

In situations of conflict or extreme violence, the ICRC’s stance as a neutral intermediary could also play a particular role — through dialogue with armed forces, armed groups or criminal gangs — in helping to generate more respect for schools and the safety of children going to school. Meanwhile, the ICRC’s expertise on IHL allows it to call at the international level for more respect for existing international norms protecting education in situations of conflict.

Meanwhile, National Societies and the IFRC are also heavily involved in efforts to fill gaps and foster greater access to education. In numerous countries, National Societies are engaging communities in the IFRC’s Youth as Agents of Behaviour Change (YABC) curriculum, which brings young people together for peer-to-peer activities — from arts and sports

to first aid — that foster non-violence and non-discrimination.

This can allow greater access to education among marginalized groups who might not otherwise feel entirely safe in school settings.

In Madagascar, for example, the Malagasy Red Cross Society is involved in the Ampinga project, which aims to combat harassment and violence, which has led to 25 per cent absentee rates in some schools. Supported by the IFRC and run in conjunction with a community group, Ampinga offers a safe space in which students can speak about acts of violence perpetrated against them or that they themselves have committed. They also confront the fear, depression and absenteeism caused by the violence and learn ways to manage anger, de-escalate tensions and promote healthier responses to disagreement and differences.

In most cases, National Societies are in the forefront of such efforts, with contributions from the ICRC, the IFRC and National Societies from elsewhere.

Since 2012, for example, the Chihuahua branch of the Mexican Red Cross has worked to foster an environment in which young people have safer access to education in Ciudad Juarez, a city on the border with the United States that has extremely high rates of violence. Supported by the ICRC and in partnership with local education authorities, the project offers non-judgemental spaces for dialogue among students — and between students and teachers — about core humanitarian values and the realities of everyday life.

“One thing we already do in some contexts is work to eliminate the barriers — or the gaps in protection — that get in the way of children going to school.”

Hugo van den Eertwegh, a security management and risk adviser for the ICRC



📍 In Comuna 13 of Medellín City in Colombia, students of the Eduardo Santos Public School take part in safe behaviour training that includes a simulation exercise on planning, developing and evaluating safe responses to armed violence. The session is part of the Urban Violence project, organized to mitigate the humanitarian consequences of urban armed violence on the communities.

Photo: Erik Tollefsen/ICRC

In addition to practical guidance on how to deal more safely with violent episodes, psychosocial support is offered via in-school 'helpers' and activities such as art, sports, theatre and music.

In some crisis situations, such as refugee camps or urban areas where migrants are settling more informally, another important approach is the creation of 'child-friendly spaces', which give parents some assurance of security and some basic learning, social integration or psychological support. The level of education offered — usually through an external partner — varies widely, however. While children may benefit from language, art or therapeutic activities that allow them to express themselves or cope in their new situations, few of these child-friendly spaces offer anything like a comprehensive primary education.

While all these initiatives are making a difference, there is wide consensus that much more could be done through building on the Movement's experience in developing such initiatives. But how far should Movement components go, given the scope of the tasks already at hand and the limited resources available to meet even basic physical needs?

Working with partners, using technology

The Movement is not alone in asking these questions. Many humanitarian organizations, large and small, are facing similar challenges. Many also report that they are finding ways to support educational efforts through the lens of their existing area of focus. The privately funded, US-based Karam Foundation, for example, works with Syrian families in southern Turkey, where Syrian children are often forced to work because their parents can't make ends meet.

At least two-thirds of the 700,000 school-age Syrian children in Turkey receive no formal education but efforts are under way to support them in temporary learning centres run by both the Turkish government and independent Syrian organizations.

"We provide them with cash transfers, conditional on their children going to school, and this vastly improves attendance," says advocacy coordinator Lilah Khoja.

Given the lack of trained teachers, funding shortfalls, the geographic isolation of refugees in camps and their restrictions on travel, technology could also make an important impact. At the grass-roots level, the Techfugees social enterprise has organized Europe-wide meetings to connect the tech community's response to refugee needs. Solutions range from distance learning via the internet to the use of apps for tackling specific subjects.

For chief operating officer Josephine Goube, there is no shortage of ideas. "The challenge for these innovations is getting the humanitarian sector to embrace them and to support the infrastructure



on which these solutions rely (e.g., internet, hardware)," she says.

Holistic impact

Not all the limits on what humanitarians might do is a question of resources, however. In some situations of conflict or violence, essential elements of educational curriculum — history, cultural identity, politics and economics — might be central to the tensions at hand. Use of a particular curriculum, therefore, might be perceived as running counter to the Movement's position of neutrality.

In other cases, humanitarian organizations might have to be careful about getting drawn in too closely with development goals (of which education is often a cornerstone) particularly when that agenda is aligned with political objectives that are controversial or one of the root causes of fighting.

In order to find the right balance for all these challenges, the ICRC, the IFRC and National Societies say they will continue to work together to coordinate their various approaches, assign roles and offer guidance on working with external partners.

While many questions are still to be answered, there is general consensus that the Movement can make a significant contribution by building on its existing strengths and creating — as Salamah's comments would suggest — a holistic environment in which learning becomes a real possibility. According to Salamah, his experience in the Yarmouk camp shows that with a stable environment, education is possible, even in difficult cases of long-term displacement. "We had a sense of community, which gives you a sense of safety and stability," he says. "This is what we need to create in the places where refugees are today." ■

By **Andrew Connelly**

Andrew Connelly is a freelance journalist based in Ankara, Turkey.

📍 Students at the Santalan Elementary School, in Malabon City, part of metro Manila, Philippines take part in a lesson about disaster risk reduction and other humanitarian issues provided by the Philippine Red Cross. Photo: Madeline Wilson/IFRC



A day at sea

In partnership with the Migrant Offshore Aid Station, the Italian Red Cross and the IFRC patrol the Mediterranean, trying to find migrant vessels, save lives and remind the world that too many people are dying at sea.

IT STARTS BEFORE DAWN with a report on the radio. There's a boat in international waters about 12 nautical miles from Libya. The *Topaz Responder*, a 51-metre-long vessel custom-built for this task, goes looking.

On board are search-and-rescue specialists from Malta, the United Kingdom and the United States of America, working for the independent charity Migrant Offshore Aid Station (MOAS), and an emergency medical team managed by the Italian Red Cross.

Based out of Malta, MOAS does the rescuing, using two smaller, high-speed rescue vessels on board the *Topaz Responder* that can be launched rapidly. (The two boats are named *Aylan* and *Ghalip*, in honour of the Kurdi brothers whose deaths off the coast of Turkey shocked the world in 2015.) Once people are on board, a team of four people from the IFRC under an Italian Red Cross team coordinator takes over with medical checks, first aid, food, water and shiny insulating 'space' blankets at night.

The Red Cross at sea

The activities of the *Topaz Responder* and its sister ship, the *Phoenix*, are the result of a partnership between the Italian Red Cross, with support from the IFRC, and the Migrant Offshore Aid Station, a Malta-based foundation that seeks to prevent migrant deaths at sea. The ships operate in the Mediterranean outside Libyan territorial waters and their activities are coordinated by Italy's Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre, based in Rome.

From left to right, the *Topaz Responder* patrols the Mediterranean; IFRC team leader Eugenio Venturo scans the water with binoculars looking for an object picked up by radar; in the early hours of the morning, the crew rescues 134 people from a rubber raft floating in international waters off the coast of Libya. Photo credits: Rosemary North/IFRC; Rosemary North/IFRC; Kenny Karpov/IFRC.

A deadly panic

In this case, the *Topaz Responder* launches the *Ghalip*. Its searchlight illuminates a sickening sight. Out of the darkness looms a big grey inflatable boat. More than 100 people straddle the edges, one foot in the waves, the other inside. Still more people hunch on the floor in-between.

The men, women and children have paid huge sums to embark on this inflatable rubber boat, launched around midnight, and they are frankly lucky to have made it this far. According to the United Nations Refugee Agency, 2016 is the deadliest year on this route. Despite thermal imaging, radar and other methods of searching, people on this boat are fortunate to be spotted.

The rescuers on the *Ghalip* tell people to be calm. They begin tossing life jackets to the boat's passengers. Most people cannot swim.

But there is a problem. There is a toxic smell. High-octane fuel is leaking from the boat's engine and mixing with sea water. Passengers are inhaling it and it is intoxicating them. Some of them faint.

A woman in the rubber boat holds up a tiny baby in a white bodysuit, perhaps hoping to draw at-

But there is a problem. There is a toxic smell. High-octane fuel is leaking from the boat's engine and mixing with sea water. Passengers are inhaling it and it is intoxicating them. Some of them faint.

tention. There is panic and yelling. People tumble or jump into the water, even though they cannot swim.

MOAS rescue swimmers plunge into the sea to save as many as they can, hauling people on to the deck of the *Topaz Responder*. In a flash, three babies are handed up.

After a scramble, the team counts 134 survivors, including 99 men, 29 women and 6 children — including six-month-old twins and an eight-month-old baby. Tragically, seven people lost their lives. Their bodies are taken to the *Topaz Responder's* morgue.

'Prepared for anything'

Almost immediately, there's a call to attend another rescue. This one is text book. The team brings on board 22 passengers from a second rubber boat. And then a third one with 27 people. The pace is hectic.

As soon as possible, the Italian Red Cross medical team gives people medical checks and first aid. Most people are shaken but not sick. But two men with severe injuries from the toxic fuel are evacuated by the Italian coastguard to hospital. One is in



Photos, left to right: rescue workers bring a young boy aboard the Migrant Offshore Aid Station; Ilesha, a mother of two, decided to make the perilous journey to Europe after her husband was killed in Libya; a Swiss Red Cross nurse, Nicole Rähle, on mission for the IFRC, takes care of a recently rescued boy. Photos: Kenny Karpov/IFRC

agony. He has inhaled so much fuel it has damaged his airway. Two days later, the team hears he died in hospital.

Nurse Nicole Rähle, a Swiss Red Cross nurse on mission for the IFRC, has experience with mass casualty events and emergencies on land, but never at sea.

“You have to be prepared for a mass casualty incident and handle it in very difficult circumstances,” she says. “It’s the timing but also the space, which is very limited on a ship.

“You have to be prepared for anything. The people on board can be perfectly healthy or very sick due to dehydration, gasoline inhalation, burns or crush injuries from overcrowding.

“We are just three medical people, a doctor and two nurses for maybe 350 people or more. So you have to think quickly, adapt quickly and be prepared to change strategy several times per rescue.”

Later, the *Topaz Responder* takes on board 171 passengers transferred from two other rescue ships patrolling in the area. One man is transferred to another ship to be reunited with his wife. The Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre in Rome, which coordinates the rescues and transfers, asks the ship to sail the 351 passengers to Italy.

1 year at sea (2016)

- 318,000+ arrivals in Europe by sea*

- 3,650+ lives lost*

- 28,000+ saved at sea (as of September 2016)**

Sources: *United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees;
**Migrant Offshore Aid Station

Waves of emotions

On deck, people are dazed. They cry and wail or sit, looking shocked.

Later, they start to relax. They are finally safe. Most are simply relieved to be alive.

“Going from Nigeria to Europe isn’t easy, through the land and through the sea,” says Jamal Agboola-Muideen, 39, a father of four. “We lost a lot of people from the boat. I could have been among them.”

He’s the breadwinner for his extended family and says he was forced to flee after his parents died and he began receiving death threats from relatives wanting their land.

Also on board are migrant workers from Bangladesh stuck in Libya with no pay for two years. This boat is their only hope of escape.



These people come from Africa, South-East Asia or the Middle East. Girls huddle together for warmth at night. A woman uses a strip of gold space blanket as a turban. A young man gives his blanket to a shivering stranger. People put up their hands to help when someone trips on a lurching deck awash with water. A baby cries in distress and hunger while a demoralized mother looks away. The survivors ask for water, food, Wi-Fi, a coffee. The *Topaz Responder* is essentially a floating ambulance so only provides the first two.

Job not over

As the *Topaz Responder* docks in Augusta, Sicily, a 22-year-old man collapses, shaking uncontrollably. "It's a panic attack," says Italian doctor Brunella Pirozzi. The team comforts him and tries gently to unfurl his clenched fists. He is anguished he could not do more to protect his two brothers and his mother, killed in front of him in Libya, and his sister, who was abducted. He thinks he has an aunt in France. The Italian Red Cross can help him find her.

Once everyone is safely on land, the team's life-saving mission is done. But it's worth remembering that even though the 183 people rescued this time have made it to European soil, their ordeal is far from over. Many migrants to Italy end up trapped in border camps or are arrested in other countries and

"You have to think quickly, adapt quickly and be prepared to change strategy several times per rescue."

Nicole Rähle, a Swiss Red Cross nurse on mission for the IFRC aboard the *Topaz Responder*

deported home or sent back to Italy, all while having almost zero chance of finding a job.

Still, in many ways, they are the lucky ones. Some 3,650 people died in the Mediterranean in the first nine months of 2016, according to the International Organization for Migration. And the plight of the men, women and children in other extremely dangerous migrant sea routes (such as the Gulf of Aden or the Bay of Bengal) gets far less attention from the media, humanitarian organizations, rescue organizations and governments. This is one reason why MOAS deployed a similar vessel in South-East Asia this summer, with the intent of patrolling international waters there.

The Red Cross Red Crescent cannot solve the political or economic conditions that push people to leave their countries in search of safety or dignity. That's the job of world leaders. But as Francesco Rocca, president of the Italian Red Cross, has said, the Red Cross will continue its life-saving work while pushing those leaders to step up and find long-term political and humanitarian solutions. "Without political solutions to the problems that force people to leave their homes," he says, "families will continue to pay the price with their lives." ■

By Rosemarie North

Rosemarie North is a writer and communications consultant and former editor of *Red Cross Red Crescent* magazine.

The cost of violence

Author and researcher Patricia Leidl says helping communities recover from crisis and overcoming poverty requires greater protection for women and girls.

NANCY WAS ONLY 14 YEARS OLD when she kissed her mother goodbye and headed off for an afternoon of study with friends. That was the last that Marta Rebaldo (not her real name) would ever see of her.

One missed phone call could have yielded a clue as to the teenager's final whereabouts.

But Rebaldo was working a 12-hour shift in one of Mexico's many thousands of *maquiladoras* (import-export factories), so she could not answer her phone. "If I had been able to pick up the phone, would I have been able to help her?" she wonders. "I do not know."

Today, that unanswered ring continues to haunt the 45-year-old mother of three. Mexico's ongoing epidemic of femicide had swallowed yet another victim: one of an estimated 44,000 over the past three decades.

According to the Mexican government's statistics, in 2015, the number of murdered women and girls reached seven every day. This does not count the tens of thousands of women who, like Nancy, simply disappeared.

Rebaldo now walks her remaining two daughters to school every morning and meets them every afternoon as they leave class. She shadows them on visits to friends and, much to their embarrassment, is only a few paces behind them when they go shopping. Although both are now in their teens, their mother even accompanies them to the corner store located a block away. Neither is ever alone.

Her vigilance however, comes at a stiff price. Rebaldo's determination to protect her remaining daughters is complicated by the futile hunt for her vanished one — first to the police, then to the

morgue and then to the *fiscalia* (district attorney) and back again, day after fruitless day. Exhausted, Rebaldo left her job.

The bank repossessed her tiny home. Her savings vaporized. She fears that her daughters will struggle as she has or, worse yet, become involved with gang members. The eldest sister was always so protective — admonishing her younger siblings to ignore the blandishments of the local thugs. "When Nancy disappeared, I lost my light," she says, adding sadly: "and all of us lost our future."

A driver of poverty

One story, but one of among millions around the world. For according to experts, not only does gender-based violence (GBV) destroy families and shatter the very foundation of a community, it is also a major driver of poverty. In addition to physical and psychological scars left on those immediately affected, gender-based violence has repercussions beyond local communities and that affect the ability of communities to fully recover after crisis.

Even in highly functioning economies in times of relative calm, domestic violence is major drain on national resources.

In Chile, a government study found that domestic violence costs the state the equivalent of US\$ 1.56 billion — or more than 2 per cent — of the country's gross domestic product (GDP). And that is in the women's lost salary alone. In the United States, the cost of violence against women by an intimate partner exceeds an estimated US\$ 5.8 billion per year. Although much of the data revolves around domestic violence, studies suggest that *all* forms of GBV are correlated with a lower GDP. In South Africa,



Illustration: Maria Maria Achta Kutscher

for example, researchers with KPMG, a professional service and auditing company, estimate that, between 2012 and 2013, violence against women and girls cost the country between 0.9 per cent and 1.3 per cent of its GDP — figures that researchers claim is likely a gross underestimate. In Latin America, where femicide and GBV are among the highest in the world, the toll on the economy is acute — not only driving families into ruin but even right out of their countries.

That violence has an economic impact that can be felt even in ‘El Norte’ — the United States — where in 2016, US border authorities in the south-west detained more than 70,000 families and just shy of 60,000 unaccompanied children. The costs of incarceration, family reunification and tracing, deportation, housing and food are astronomical.

Suffering: the intangible cost

Research and policy rarely reflect other more ‘intangible’ costs such as pain and suffering or the psychological impact on children that may affect their future earning power. Nor do they explore multi-generational losses — i.e., economic opportunity lost to children who witness extreme violence, whose mothers are murdered or who are pulled out

“When Nancy disappeared I lost my light, and all of us lost our future.”

Marta Rebaldo, whose daughter disappeared on the way to see friends

of school because parents fear they will be sexually exploited, raped and/or killed.

These, according to Priyanka Bhalia, GBV adviser with the IFRC’s Asia-Pacific Region, can only be understood when examined over the long term, research that few international organizations, governments or educational institutions have thus far undertaken.

“Gender-based violence affects communities in every way,” she says. “There are psychological effects, economic effects. If they have to go to the police or incur medical costs, it can ruin a family.”

Bhalia notes that in many cases, stigma and silence mean that victims and their loved ones will opt not to file a case or seek medical attention. This is especially true of survivors living in states characterized by extreme poverty, humanitarian disasters, weak governments and high rates of violence against women and girls.

“The problem with international organizations is that we rarely see the long-term effects of gender-based violence,” Bhalia says. Typically speaking, the ‘horizon line’ for much international relief and development rarely extends beyond five years.

“The economic impact of GBV is something that happens over time,” she notes. “Unless you’re work-

ing within the community for a longer period of time and unless you keep going back, you simply won't see it."

Exacerbated by emergency

Similarly, in places hit by natural disaster or other crisis, there is often a dearth of reliable baseline data about the frequency of GBV, making it difficult to know precisely how violence changes in the aftermath of a shock. However, there is growing evidence that the impoverishment caused by emergencies increases both the incidence and the impact of GBV.

According to *Unseen, unheard: Gender-based violence in disasters*, a global study published by the IFRC in 2015, "the increased economic pressures caused by a disaster seem to intensify family tensions and GBV".

Further, the way poverty is addressed (or not addressed) in the post-disaster context can also have an impact, the report continues. "Where they lack economic alternatives, women and girls in abusive relationships have little choice but to remain with their abuser," in the aftermath of a disaster.

Poverty and desperation may also force many women and girls into child marriage or transactional sex (for money, food or protection), and they become more vulnerable to traffickers. On the other hand, programmes to help women "must be designed and implemented carefully, because new economic opportunities can expose girls and women to new risks (for example, if they need to travel to a new job)."

While GBV is often invisible to outside observers, the report urges humanitarian organizations and governments to operate on the assumption that it is happening. Many relief organizations, including the components of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, are doing more to make the protection of people from gender and sexual violence an integral part of their response to emergencies.

"Gender-based violence affects communities in every way. There are psychological effects, economic effects. If they have to go to the police or incur medical costs, it can ruin a family."

Priyanka Bhalia, GBV adviser with the IFRC's Asia-Pacific Region

📍 In the municipality of Djibidione, in Senegal's Casamance region, an ICRC market garden programme allowed women to gain livelihoods within safer areas in the city, as opposed to riskier harvesting activities further from town. Here, women arrange the chillies they grew as part of the programme to dry in the sun. Photo: José Cendon/ICRC



Before the hurricane season, for example, the Haiti National Red Cross Society uses radio, TV and mobile-phone SMS services to share information on how to prepare while also raising awareness around GBV.

With ICRC support, women in Casamance, Senegal, have diminished their risk of sexual violence via livelihood projects (donation of grain mills, seeds and agricultural equipment; support with creating market gardens and training, etc.). The projects reduced their need to leave their villages to forage for food and thus potentially fall prey to attackers.

These are just two in a growing list of efforts, backed up at the global level by a resolution, passed by states and the Movement at its 32nd International Conference in December 2015, that specifically condemns gender-based violence in all its forms — but particularly during disaster and conflict — and calls on Movement components and governments to do more to address the issue.

Such assistance, protection and prevention efforts, however, are motivated more by the need to safeguard the health and well-being of the victims than by the economic impact or the effect on overall community recovery.

Nevertheless, numerous studies on micro-credit projects focusing on women show how they play a critical role in economic and social cohesion of impoverished communities. For survivors of sexual violence — whose families and communities often marginalize or ostracize them — interventions that help protect their dignity and restart livelihoods are essential to helping them recover and, eventually, contribute to their local economies.

Women who are too terrified to venture out of the house or can focus only on the safety of their loved ones, cannot till fields, support their children or provide the love, support and protection that children require. In the wake of emergencies, protecting women is not only essential to the right to life and dignity of every woman but is also critical to the full recovery of an affected community.

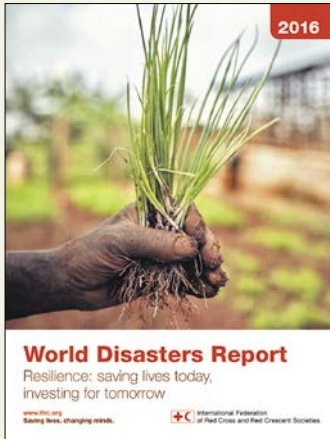
As conflicts become longer, as violence in urban areas becomes increasingly entrenched and as climate change leads to intractable competition for scarce resources, the contribution that women make to the resilience of their communities is too often overlooked.

Or, like the daughter of Marta Rebaldo, it is disappeared. And the effects damage us all. ■

By Patricia Leidl

Patricia Leidl is a writer and editor based in Kabul, Afghanistan, who has reported extensively on gender-based violence. Her recent book, *The Hillary Doctrine, Sex and American Foreign Policy*, co-written with Valerie M. Hudson, is available from Columbia University Press.

PUBLICATIONS



World Disasters Report 2016

IFRC, 2016

A lack of global investment in strengthening community resilience is leaving tens of millions of people exposed to predictable, preventable and catastrophic disaster risks. This is the key message behind the IFRC's *World Disasters Report 2016*. According to the report, despite broad recognition that investing in resilience before a disaster can save lives and money, only 40 cents of every 100 US dollars spent on international aid is invested in preparedness and measures to reduce disaster risk.

Available in English, with summaries in Arabic, French and Spanish

Red Cross and Red Crescent emblems

ICRC, 2016

This new leaflet is designed to help members of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement address misuse of the emblems. It explains the purpose of the emblems and why it is important to protect and ensure respect for them. The pamphlet also explains who is authorized to display the emblems. Particular attention is paid to medical and healthcare personnel and pharmacies. National Red Cross or Red Crescent Societies, or ICRC delegations, may add one page of information pertaining to the emblems in their particular

countries. National Societies interested in doing so are requested to contact the ICRC delegation in their country.

Available in Arabic, English, French, Portuguese and Spanish

A plan to strengthen community resilience to drought in southern Africa

IFRC, 2016

Southern Africa is in the midst of an intense drought, driven by one of the strongest El Niño episodes on record. An estimated 31.6 million people in the region are currently food insecure and this figure is expected to climb to more than 49 million by the end of 2016. This booklet lays out a plan to help people affected by the drought to become more resilient to climate-related hardships.

Available in English

International humanitarian law: a comprehensive introduction

ICRC, 2016

This handbook aims to promote and strengthen knowledge of international humanitarian law (IHL) among academics, weapon-bearers, humanitarian workers and media professionals. It presents contemporary issues related to IHL in an accessible style, using practical examples. In line with the ICRC's reading of the law, the handbook is both an everyday companion for anyone approaching IHL for the first time and a useful reference tool for military and humanitarian personnel seeking guidance.

Available in English (French in 2017)

Autonomous weapon systems

ICRC, 2016

The development of autonomous weapon systems — capable of independently selecting and

ICRC materials are available from the International Committee of the Red Cross, 19 avenue de la Paix, CH-1202 Geneva, Switzerland. www.shop.icrc.org
IFRC materials are available from the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, P.O. Box 303, CH-1211 Geneva 19, Switzerland. www.ifrc.org

attacking targets without human intervention — raises the prospect of the loss of human control over weapons and the use of force.

Debates on autonomous weapon systems have expanded significantly in recent years in diplomatic, military, scientific, academic and public forums. This report contains a summary of a March 2016 expert meeting on the issue that brought together representatives from states and experts in robotics, law, policy and ethics.

Available in English

Nutrition matters

IFRC, 2016

This guidance publication highlights tangible, evidence-based priority actions in health, water and sanitation, and hygiene to achieve the global targets for nutrition. Throughout the publication, the importance of cross-sectoral

collaboration within and outside the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement to address nutrition holistically is emphasized.

Available in English

Protracted conflict and humanitarian action Some recent ICRC experiences

ICRC, 2016

With the ICRC now spending about two-thirds of its budget on what it defines as 'protracted conflicts' — and the average duration of the ICRC's ten largest operations at 36 years — the ICRC is responding by implementing a 'combined approach' that operates in the short and long terms to meet immediate needs and mitigate cumulative impact, according to this 44-page report.

Available in English

ONLINE

Enrique's Shadow

ICRC, 2016

In marking the International Day of the Disappeared in August, the ICRC commissioned a comic book that tells the true story of a Colombian family's desperate search for news of a missing family member. Entitled *Enrique's Shadow*, the book was produced by the PositiveNegatives, an organization that develops literary comics about contemporary social and human rights issues. *Enrique's Shadow* may be seen at <https://medium.com/@ICRC/>.

Available in Arabic, English, French, Korean, Mandarin, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish and Thai

The global review on migration

IFRC, 2016

The IFRC commissioned and published *The global review on migration* as part of its mandate to ensure that all National Societies have the knowledge, resources and capacities to support vulnerable migrants. This report is based on interviews with more

than 70 people representing 30 countries and five country missions, and on extensive desk research. It compiles 59 smart practices that address the needs of migrants across their journeys. The report is published as a micro website at: media.ifrc.org/global-review-on-migration/

Available in English

Virtual Volunteer

IFRC, 2016

Virtual Volunteer (virtualvolunteer.org) is an easy-to-use web application that helps people who are migrating find reliable, practical information and support. Universally accessible with any connected device, Virtual Volunteer merges the technological expertise of the computing company IBM with decades of Red Cross and Red Crescent experience to deliver humanitarian aid wherever it is needed most. The app puts crucial, reliable information at people's fingertips and links them to the closest available services.

Available in Arabic, English, Dari, Farsi, Greek, and Swedish (languages vary depending on country where app is used)



A rescue swimmer hands a child to a crew member of the *Topaz Responder*, the maritime rescue ship that houses the Migrant Offshore Aid Station, where the Italian Red Cross coordinates life-saving medical and psychosocial support to migrants found at sea. See page 22.

Photo: Kenny Karpov/IFRC