



NAIROBI REGIONAL DELEGATION
BULLETIN
2023 REVIEW



ICRC

FOREWORD

Unprecedented. A term so often resorted to when describing humanitarian crises and needs, that at times it may sound farfetched, a cry-wolf hyperbole. But 2023 and the first months of 2024 have indeed been unprecedented in terms of the increased humanitarian needs in the Horn. The compounded effects of extreme weather shocks, with a prolonged drought followed by El Niño and widespread floods, together with mounting levels of armed conflict and instability in the region have affected the lives, security, dignity, stability, and livelihoods of tens of thousands of children, women and men. In Sudan, Ethiopia, South Sudan, Somalia and now Eastern DRC, humanitarian organisations, including the ICRC, are finding it increasingly challenging to respond to the humanitarian needs. No hyperbole here, the situation is undoubtedly unprecedented.

The first of Nairobi ICRC Regional Delegation's five identity pillars, which encapsulate its overarching strategies and priorities, focusses on supporting the work of neighbouring ICRC operational delegations to address these humanitarian crises which expand across national boundaries. This is done through the mobilization of the Nairobi-based teams, resources and expertise, collectively known as the Nairobi Hub. This hub includes not only the Regional Delegation covering Kenya, Tanzania and Djibouti, but other components such as teams of experts and advisors with a continental and global remit, our Regional Logistics Support Centre and the Somalia management and coordination team. The Nairobi Hub represents the biggest ICRC site outside it's Geneva HQ and throughout 2023 has remained as a pivotal element in responding to the humanitarian needs in the region.

In addition to the direct support to operations, 2023 has also been marked by reinforced efforts in promoting and disseminating International Humanitarian Law (IHL) and the foundations of principled humanitarian action. Engaging with the military (as was the case of the Senior Workshop on International Rules Governing Military Operations, SWIRMO), policy and governmental stakeholders, academia, humanitarian practitioners, the diplomatic community and other key stakeholders has remained a focus area of work, in line with our second identity pillar. At a time when, world-wide, we are seeing increased challenges for principled humanitarian action, preserving the essential humanitarian space is more pressing than ever. As this year we celebrate the 75th adoption of the Geneva Conventions, the fundamental tenets of protecting the lives and dignity of those affected by armed conflict and violence remain as relevant today as they did in 1949 and so does the need

to preserve them. The Nairobi ICRC Regional Delegation remains steadfastly committed to doing so and in this sense, we aim to promote our new Lower Kabete campus as a reference platform for exchange, discussion and reflection on humanitarian issues.

In furthering International Humanitarian Law and the foundations of principled humanitarian action in Kenya, as well as in conducting operations along the Kenya-Somalia border, the Kenyan Red Cross Society remains as a key partner, working in areas as diverse as responding to humanitarian emergencies, linking up families members who for various circumstances, including humanitarian crises, have lost contact or examining the evolving digital opportunities and risks for principled humanitarian action. Given our reduced presence in Djibouti and Tanzania, the work carried out by the Djiboutian Red Crescent and Tanzanian Red Cross Societies will be even more important and so will be the need to continue to find alternatives to support their operational capability and autonomy.

This review outlines some of the Nairobi Regional Delegation's 2023 highlights but also, moving forward, encapsulates the strategic priorities for 2024 and beyond. In line with the ICRC's 2024-2027 strategy, we will strive to sustain the centrality of the protection of individuals and communities affected by conflict and violence; to uphold IHL, elevating it to a continental political priority; and to contribute, together with relevant stakeholders and partners, to build a new humanitarianism, rooted in our shared principles, but adapting to the rapidly changing realities. Unprecedented and evolving challenges do indeed call for novel and unprecedented responses.



Daniel O'Malley
Head Of Regional Delegation, Nairobi

STRATEGIC PILLARS NAIROBI Regional Delegation



REGIONAL HUB OF EXPERTISE

Nairobi remains the biggest ICRC site outside its Geneva Headquarters. It is a regional hub which not only houses the Kenya/Djibouti/Tanzania and Somalia operational teams but also hosts technical expertise and teams with a regional remit (supporting ICRC operations in the Horn and beyond) and a global remit. These teams help to amplify ICRCs' voice in the Horn and bolster our capacity to influence, exchange, reflect and react vis à vis complex humanitarian issues. The Hub, thus, supports and enhances operational agility, humanitarian diplomacy, stakeholder engagement and advocacy to promote issues of humanitarian access, our neutral intermediary role and adherence to IHL principles.

PREVENTION

The delegation aims to establish a robust prevention base focussing on the dissemination, exchange, and reflection on International Humanitarian Law (IHL) with a broad range of stakeholders. These include government, security sector, academia, international humanitarian and human rights organizations, embassies and think tanks. We seek to ensure that our Neutral, Independent, Humanitarian Action (NIHA) is understood and upheld as well as promote humanitarian diplomacy. We also engage with media actors, religious leaders and seek to monitor and influence humanitarian reporting towards those affected.

MOVEMENT

Seeking to develop a solid, collaborative approach with our Movement partners, jointly looking at synergies and complementary approaches to reinforce our joint institutional positioning and operational response capacity to cater for humanitarian needs and crises. This is in partnership with the Kenya Red Cross Society (KRCS) for operations along the Kenyan border as well as the Djibouti and Tanzania Red Cross Societies, aiming to reinforce their autonomy, programmatic focus, and sustainability.

INNOVATION & CLIMATE CHANGE

Examining innovative approaches and tools to support the ICRC's operations and analysis with a particular focus on climate and environmental risks that individuals and communities affected by violence are exposed to. In this sense the delegation examines options which allow them to better adapt and increase their resilience to the mounting frequency and impact of climate shocks through, inter alia, mobilizing the Hub expertise as well as relevant stakeholders.

OPERATIONS

Responding to the humanitarian needs and consequences of the extension of the conflict along the Kenya/Somalia border in the select counties of Mandera, Wajir, Garissa and Lamu. In a complementary manner, working with the Kenyan authorities to improve the conditions of detention (health, infrastructure, prison management) with a mandated focus on those detained under the Prevention of Terrorism Act. All operational activities are conducted in close partnership with the KRCS.

ICRC TIMELINE IN NAIROBI

1940s

ICRC delegates are allowed to visit Italian Prisoners of war in Gilgil and Kabete camps.



1957

During the Mau Mau uprising, the British authorities give permission for an ICRC mission to visit Kenya by two delegates. 52 camps and prisons and 18 rehabilitation villages are visited. In 1959, ICRC delegation visits convicts and Mau Mau in Manyani detention camp.



1963

The General Delegate based in Salisbury (present Harare) carries out a number of missions to Kenya making contact with the authorities and engages with the Kenya Red Cross Society (KRCS), established in 1965 by an act of Parliament to carry out humanitarian work.

1974

Set up of a permanent presence in Nairobi with a dual purpose – to carry out operations and pursue humanitarian diplomacy & provide logistic support services for operations in the Horn of Africa, Great lakes and further afield. The office had its first premises at International Life House in downtown Nairobi before moving to Dennis Pritt Road.

1992

In 1992, Nairobi office becomes headquarters for three different delegations – the Nairobi RD (Nairobi, Tanzania and Djibouti), Southern Sudan delegation and Somali. After the ceasefire in 1996, S.Sudan delegation was split into two –South Sudan and Sudan -Khartoum.

1990 - 94

ICRC becomes active in Djibouti developing its Protection and assistance activities for victims of the Somali conflict migrating there and later of the internal conflict in Djibouti. Regular visits made to captured combatants of the Djiboutian National Army (AND) or detained by the Djiboutian authorities. In 1994, HQ Agreement signed with authorities and office opened attached to the Nai Reg Del.

1987



Prisoners of war taken during the Tanzania-Uganda conflict in 1979 are released in the presence of Tanzanian authorities, the Tanzania Red Cross, the Uganda Red Cross and ICRC representatives.

1987



ICRC establishes Lopiding hospital in Lokichogio close to Sudan border to cater for victims of conflict in non-government held Southern Sudan. With a capacity of 700 beds, it was the largest field hospital in the world at the time performing more than 4000 operations in a year.

1994

ICRC and the Kenyan government sign a Headquarters Agreement giving it status similar to that of an intergovernmental organization.

1994 - 1999

A Central Tracing Agency (CTA) hub for Rwanda is set up in Nairobi for protection data processing, allowing thousands of Rwandans across the region (inside Rwanda, Tanzania, Burundi, DRC [then Zaire], Uganda, Kenya) and abroad to restore family links, thousands of children to be reunified with their parents and visits to places of detention in Rwanda.

2004

Offices are opened in Turkwell, Turkana district, to coordinate assistance programs aimed at relieving tensions and improving the economic security of communities affected by violence in Turkana and West Pokot. Projects initiated in Lamu to ease tensions between communities over chronic lack of clean drinking water.

2008



In response to Kenya's post-election violence the delegation opens 3 offices in Eldoret, Kisumu and Nakuru covering the worst affected areas of Rift Valley and Western Kenya. Referral hospital in Eldoret and Naivasha hospitals benefit from expertise of 4 ICRC surgical staff and forensic teams help manage and identify human remains.

2007

The Mt Elgon conflict featuring the SLDF militia sees delegates initiate dialogue with authorities and weapon bearers on their responsibilities under national and international legal frameworks with 10,000 IDP families receiving monthly food rations for 9 months and those with access to land; seeds, fertilizers and tools. In 2009, the operation scales down, Bungoma office closes. 100 widows with no income sources receive startup capital to start businesses and families receive progress on tracing relatives reported missing.

2006

Closure of Lokichokio sub delegation and hand-over of the Lopiding field hospital to the Kenyan government after more than 19 years of running it. It had handled over 60,000 operations, trained 300 medical staff from S.Sudan, and treated tens of thousands of patients moving support to Juba.

2015

Yemen conflict erupts with the arrival of 20,000 Yemeni's and Third National Cs to DJJ (no acronyms). ICRC provides RFL services to all new arrivals and migrants transiting through IOM Centre. DJJ office expands its size to include a field delegate and additional support staff becoming a Mission this year. National Commission on IHL inaugurated.



2019 - 2020

In accordance with its logistical support mandate, DJJ mission facilitates the repatriation operation of more than 1000 prisoners of war between Saudi Arabia and Yemen on 2 chartered airlines. In 2023, a further 887 prisoners would be repatriated between the two countries.

2020 - 2021

COVID -19 hits Kenya. ICRC offers support to Kenyan Prisons to put in place COVID-19 interventions through reviewing containment measures, working with KRCS multidisciplinary teams, to support the construction of quarantine centers, review of and improving water structures within the prison systems. Free phone calls are offered to inmates in 128 prisons across Kenya following restricted visits by families to contain COVID-19. In 2021, ICRC begins prison visits across the country with 37 prisons visited in this year alone.

2022

ICRC in cooperation with KRCS scales up drought response in 4 areas hardest hit and close to the border with Somalia (Mandera, Wajir, Garissa, Lamu). Over 60,000 people were reached with different types of assistance.

today

The Nairobi RD sets up permanent presence in Lower Kabete carrying out humanitarian activities in the 3 countries particularly along the Kenya / Somalia border in response to the extension of conflict in Somalia. It also focusses on IHL integration and implementation and pursuing humanitarian diplomacy. Host to Somalia delegation and a hub providing support to wider Africa region in logistics and providing technical, operational and training support through a team of specialists.

NAIROBI REGIONAL DELEGATION KABETE CAMPUS

- Plot size: 33.185 m²
- Floor area 17.025 m²
- 141 offices
- NAI work cafés : 17 meeting rooms, working spaces and skype booths
- SOK work cafés : 12 meeting rooms, working spaces and skype booths
- 2 Lnd training rooms
- 1 Conference room
- Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Certification: Awarded in December 2022

NEW REGIONAL NAIROBI DELEGATION GREEN DESIGN APPROACH



ENERGY SAVINGS

- Solar panels will provide 30% of the electricity used in the delegation (150 kW peak).



LEED CERTIFICATION

- LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) is the most widely used green building rating system in the world. It aims to help

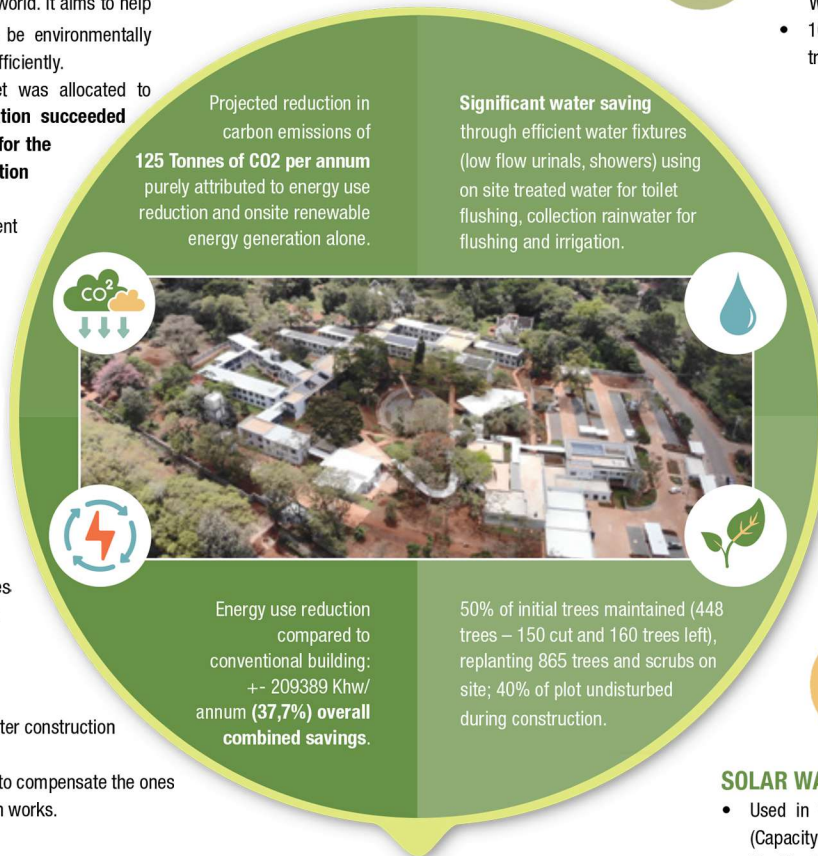
building owners and operators be environmentally responsible and use resources efficiently.

- 5% of the construction budget was allocated to LEED Certification. **The delegation succeeded in acquiring this certification for the first time ever in our construction operational activities.**
- Return of the additional investment within 3-5 years.



WASTE WATER TREATMENT PLANT

- Rainwater runoff, stormwater and water from the toilets is directed to the WWTP and the stormwater tank.
- 100% of the water is treated daily. Once treated the water is pumped to the pond.



BUILDING ORIENTATION

- The buildings are oriented in an East-West to direct sun hitting the longer side of the buildings.
- This reduces the thermal heat gain and regulates internal temperature, reducing the need for AC.



BIO-ECOSYSTEM

- Building around trees approach. Protecting indigenous trees, green zones and immediate environment during construction works.
- 40% (12,800 m²) of the site undisturbed
- Top soil stored and reused after construction for landscaping.
- Replanting trees and scrubs to compensate the ones being cut during construction works.



SOLAR WATER HEATING

- Used in the entrance complex for the showers (Capacity = 900 litres).
- Used in the canteen (Capacity = 1050 litres).
- Has an electrical heater as a backup.

VALUABLE SAVINGS ACHIEVED BY APPLYING GREEN DESIGN APPROACH



POND

- Construction of a pond that receives water from rainwater runoff and waste water treatment plant and subjects it to natural sedimentation for reuse (Capacity = 927 m³).

- The pond water is pumped to be reused in the toilets and irrigation.
- The pond also regulates the temperatures around the plot, keeping it cool, and helps sustain plants, birds and insects.



ACCESSIBILITY

- New delegation is designed to be user-friendly for everyone, including people who use wheelchairs.
- 100% building accessibility around the full compound.
- Covered light sloped walkway to all the buildings.
- Interconnection between buildings on all floor levels.
- Accessible sanitary facilities.

REGIONAL RESOURCE NETWORK (RRN)

Based in Nairobi, our Regional Resource Network is a team of experts who support ICRC delegations in the Africa region. The team includes a mobile surgical team, nutrition and economic security experts, data analysts, water engineers, prisons advisors, environmental managers, and communication experts. With several conflicts ongoing in the region – including in Sudan, Ethiopia, Somalia, and DRC – Nairobi is a strategic base from which ICRC supports its operations.

MOBILE SURGICAL TEAM

Always ready to deploy on emergency missions, this team based in Nairobi comprises the regional surgeon, anaesthetist and theatre nurse. In 2023, the team took on various missions across and beyond the continent including in Ethiopia, Eastern Chad and Sudan. During their deployment to Darfur in Sudan the team performed over 230 surgical operations serving over 121 patients admitted in the operating theatre in one month alone. The team offered technical support training doctors on management of weapon wounds and fractures. Part of the equipment used in the Al Geneina teaching hospital was from a donation of two ICRC war wounded kits (consisting of material to treat 100 patients). The team also conducts training for local medical doctors on treatment of casualties from weapon wounds and Basic Emergency Care.



WORKSHOP ON PRISON INFRASTRUCTURE

Overcrowding in prisons is a major challenge across Africa which could lead to serious security and health challenges to inmates and warders alike. Funding prison infrastructure was not seen as a priority for many governments and departments of correctional services. Across Africa, the conversation on this issue has been shifting in the last couple of years through participation of correctional heads in the Workshop on Prison Infrastructure (WIPA). WIPA, an initiative of ICRC's Water and Habitat (Wathab) in Detention team, offers a platform for heads of correctional services, ICRC teams and officials of Africa's correctional organizations to come together and discuss how to improve the conditions for those living in places of detention.



Officials of the Africa Correctional services association endorse the Prison maintenance guide launched in Kampala at the WPIA conference in November 2023.

At the 2023 meeting held in Kampala, Uganda from the 14th to 17th November, the meeting culminated with the official launch of the Prison Maintenance Guide in English speaking Africa. The 2023 meeting in Kampala follows recent ones held in Kenya (2022), Kigali (2020) and Addis Ababa (2018). These meetings organized by the ICRC have seen an appreciation for its work in detention particularly at the Prisons management level, thus granting better access to the organization to carry on its Protection mandate.

SUDAN SUPPORT

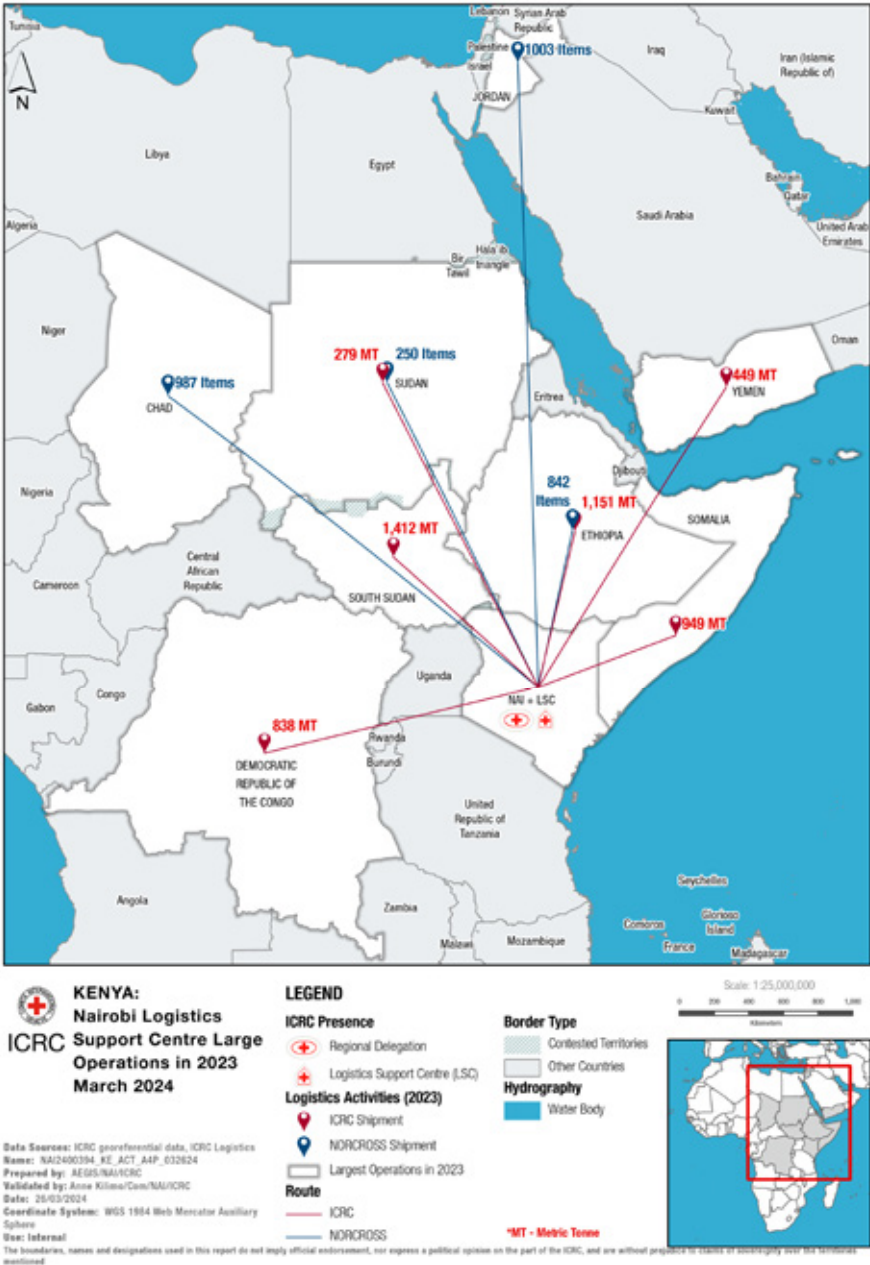
Following the escalation of conflict in Sudan in April 2023, ICRC Regional delegation in Nairobi stepped up measures to support colleagues working in the country. The Nairobi office offered operational support through deployment of Nairobi colleagues and hosted parts of a surge team while they sorted out logistics. Several units gave support to Sudan like the Welcome team who supported with logistics for visas and transporting staff to Port Sudan. The Radio team in Nairobi worked to set up communication groups ensuring information was relayed on time across teams. Our regional media relations delegate acted as spokesperson on various occasions for the situation in Sudan. In Nairobi, we hosted meetings for the Sudan Red Crescent Society (SRCS) meetings with embassies, international organizations as well as Red Cross partners to see how to support the SRCS in their activities in Sudan. Further, the delegation convened regional meetings on Sudan with donors to highlight the humanitarian and funding needs in the country. The Logistics Support Centre (LSC) was an invaluable logistics partner transporting aid by air and road to Sudan and Chad to support the work going on there.



LON: A BEACON OF HUMANITARIAN AID

The ICRC Logistics Support Centre (LON) based in Nairobi has been a beacon of humanitarian aid and support in the East African region since its inception in 1997: Its strategic location nestled near Kenya’s bustling international airport, port, rail, and a well-developed road network, makes it the perfect hub for multi-modal transportation and optimal logistics and supply chain operations.

As a leader in logistics and supply chain management, LON is dedicated to building capacity and providing specialized technical services in the region. We **support 25 countries** across **Africa** with a focus in training, onboarding, and knowledge dissemination. In recent years LON has taken on the global supplies for crucial medical items (**category 1 in 2021, category 2 in 2022–23**), nutrients and even serves as a global host for water and sanitation contingency stock covering **44 countries**. Here were some of our key operations in 2023.





We continually engage with Kenyan government officials who enable operational access for our supply chain via the Port of Mombasa and Northern Corridor. Here, our head of Logistics Mauro Iacona led the ICRC team in a one day familiarization meeting with the Kenya Revenue Authority led by the Coordinator Southern Region Mr. Lawrence Siele, KENTRADE officials, the Kenya Bureau of Standards, the Pharmacy and Poisons Board, and Kenya Ports Authority extensions.

Suppliers today are keen on doing ethical, green business as part of their efforts to safeguard the environment. We hosted members from the Alliance of Chinese Business in Africa for social responsibility to see how we are ensuring sustainability of our operations.



One of the many shipments to Gaza this time carrying 25 metric tonnes of humanitarian assistance (Medical supplies, therapeutic food and body bags) to assist ICRC operations there. Kenya's accessibility to various countries by air, road and rail makes our logistics experience effective.

ICRC President Mirjana Spoljaric Egger's 2023 visit to Nairobi Logistics Centre accompanied by Julien Lerisson, Deputy Head of Operations and Clare Cameron, the President's Senior Communications Advisor. Mauro Iacona explains operations at LON.



SWIRMO 2023: PUTTING MEASURES IN PLACE TO PROTECT CIVILIANS

“We all want a world free of war, but we must continue to discuss the effects of war and how to minimize them. In a world where civilians are most affected by today’s conflicts, measures must be put in place to protect those civilians and ensure they are not targeted.”

These remarks, made by Brigadier Edward Rugendo, Chief of Operations of the Kenya Defence Forces (KDF) officially ended the Senior Workshop on International Rules governing Military Operations (SWIRMO). Brig. Rugendo was representing the Chief of Defence Forces for KDF, as co-host of the week-long event which brought together over **80 senior officers from 65 countries** around the world and was organized by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

At the opening ceremony, Lieutenant General Jonah M. Mwangi, the Vice Chief of Defence Forces for KDF, noted that militaries have a duty to protect civilians and emphasized the significance of integrating IHL into military training. This was equally manifested through the testimonies of the senior military officers and discussions throughout the course of the week. Major General Etsu Ndagi from Nigeria noted that ICRC’s collaboration on

SWIRMO, an ICRC flagship event for senior military officers, focusses on International Humanitarian Law (IHL) and its application in military operations. The week-long workshop run from 31 October to 4 November 2023 in Nairobi and comprised of presentations in plenary sessions and simulation exercises on practical application of IHL in contemporary environment that evolved and continued throughout the week.



Participants of the 2023 SWIRMO workshop in Nairobi.



Pete Evans, ICRC Head of relations with arms carriers, Martin Schüepp, Director of Operations and senior military heads participating at SWIRMO 2023.

teaching of IHL is a major component within Nigerian Military training schools. KDF's Brigadier Joakim Mwamburi remarked that Kenyan training institutions such as the Joint Command and Staff College incorporated IHL as part of the training package, adding that military actors should partner with the ICRC in integrating IHL.

While welcoming the participants to Kenya during the opening ceremony, the Cabinet Secretary for Defense Hon. Aden Duale pointed out that the workshop was being held at a time of shifting alliances, growing geopolitical tensions and armed conflicts reinforcing the importance of IHL. Hon Duale highlighted the commitment of the KDF and the role on the ICRC in reducing suffering of victims of armed conflict as well as the protection of civilians and civilian objects. He encouraged participants to engage in the discussions on the practical aspects of IHL and their implications.

As part of the plenary, a panel was convened on Conflict and Climate Change, with panelists from the International Crisis Group, the KDF and the ICRC. The reality of conflict and climate change was acknowledged with the fact that climate change has a bearing on international peace and security. **Statistics shared at the discussion showed that 60% of countries mired in conflict are least able to adapt to climate change with displacement and forced migration being one of the key consequences of this.** ICRC's legal expert Hillary Kiboro discussed the IHL rules related to the environment and noted that the environment, being a civilian object should be protected from military targeting by virtue of the principle of distinction. The military noted the need to embrace multilateralism and embrace a more collaborative approach with other actors in dealing with climate change and conflict.

Technological developments in weaponry, including developments in autonomous weaponry, was one of the topics discussed during a fireside chat with Martin Schuepp, ICRC's global Director of Operations. "At the ICRC, we're trying to understand those risks posed by technology, the speed and velocity of these developments and what humans are able to control." noted Martin. Long after these technologies are utilized, the most vulnerable of populations remain at risk and IHL will continue to apply.

The role of the ICRC, its neutrality, and its mode working was also a key thematic area that was discussed. "Some fear that IHL can tear down operations but if there's compliance, it enhances those operations. We hope throughout this past week, you've gained a lot of takeaways and can trust the ICRC and its confidentially going forth" noted Peter Evans, ICRC Head of unit for Relations with Arms Carriers.



Swirmo 2023 Video: SWIRMO (Senior Workshop on International Rules Governing Military Objectives) 2023 (vimeo.com)



The ICRC engages with arms carriers to advocate for respect of IHL, while supporting in building of understanding and integration of IHL into military training, doctrine, and operations. The conversations between the ICRC and arms carriers remain invaluable in protecting non-combatants. At SWIRMO, the role of integrating IHL considerations into the military planning process, and the involvement of operational legal advisers was pointed out as critical for compliance with the rules of war.

IHL ROUNDUP 2023

REGIONAL IHL SEMINAR

Hon. Shadrack Mose, Kenya’s solicitor General officiated over the opening of the 9th regional Seminar on the Implementation of IHL. Government representatives from Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Somalia, Ethiopia, Rwanda, South Sudan, South Africa, Djibouti, along with participants from IGAD, the African Council for Religious Leaders, and the Kenya Red Cross, gathered at ICRC’s Kabete campus for the two-day meeting from the 23rd-24th of August. The regional seminar provides states an opportunity to share lessons learnt, achievements and challenges to IHL on a peer-to-peer level. This is part of ICRC’s commitment to promote awareness of IHL and work with states for its development and incorporation in national legal frameworks.



ALL AFRICA MOOT COURT COMPETITION ON IHL

Great Zimbabwe University put Zimbabwe back on the map to clinch the 2023 All Africa competition on IHL. The long nights of learning, debating, and applying the law had finally paid off. The team put up a spirited defense against Kenyatta University’s team arguing before a panel of judges at the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals (IRMCT) courtroom in Arusha. President Gatti Santana and Judge Thembile Segoete led the eminent team of judges which included ICRC’s Head of Regional Delegation, Daniel O’Malley, and legal advisors. The other participating teams included: Nile University (Nigeria), University of Rwanda (Rwanda), Starford University (South Sudan), University of Dar es Salaam (Tanzania), Cavendish University (Uganda), Arba Minch University (Ethiopia) and Mogadishu University (Somalia).



NETWORKING FOR STRONGER IHL IMPLEMENTATION.

In Kenya, Tanzania and Djibouti, the ICRC continued its efforts to engage with governments for stronger respect for IHL. A meeting with Kenya's Attorney-General Hon. Justine Muturi gave us the opportunity to advocate for the work we do as well as seek support for an active IHL Committee within the country. This was positively followed up with an engagement with Kenya's registrar of treaties to discuss IHL implementation in Kenya. In Tanzania, ICRC's meeting with the Minister of Foreign Affairs Hon January Mkamba helped to revive the technical working group on establishing an IHL committee in Tanzania.



DIALOGUE WITH RELIGIOUS LEADERS

Religious values and doctrines have long inspired humanitarian action, and charity is an essential part of all major religions. Religious leaders therefore play a vital role in carrying out and facilitating humanitarian action. With this in mind, the ICRC collaborates with religious circles around the world to improve the effectiveness of humanitarian action, to explore correspondences between IHL and religious principles, and to learn how religious and philosophical traditions can contribute to regulating and reducing suffering during armed conflict on their own terms.

The Kenya / Somalia border and Kenyan coast is predominantly Islamic in culture and religion. Our operations as a regional delegation remain focused towards this area and target group who are affected by the spillover of conflict in Somalia. This means that the ICRC and Red Cross in general will invariably interact with Islamic leaders along the way.

To solidify our networking efforts with religious leaders in Kenya, the Chairman of the Kenya Fatwa Council (KENFAT), Mufti Sheikh Ahmad Ahmad Badawi Jamalilayl Mwenye Baba visited the Nairobi Regional Delegation on 13 September. The Mufti, accompanied by Sheikh Ayub Abdi Sattar, KENFAT treasurer, was received at the delegation by HoRD delegation Daniel O'Malley; Martin Thalmann, Head of Operations; Regional Networking Manager Hatim Fadlallah and

Nairobi Networking Advisor Mohamed Jaffer. The meeting discussed ways to enhance the cooperation between the ICRC and the Kenya Fatwa Council that was formed in January 2023 to help interpret laws for the Muslim faithful in the country on issues affecting their daily lives. The Fatwa Council is a very important Sunni Muslim body that is slowly gaining immense influence on the Muslims in the country and shaping their thinking and acceptance of various organisations including those working in the humanitarian field. During the meeting, the ICRC team and Sheikh Jamalilayl who maintains an impressive network of contacts all over East Africa and runs two important Sunni (Sufi) schools along the Kenyan Coast, discussed the ICRC mandate, operations and the role of the Red Cross during armed conflict.

Previously, a delegation from the Inter-Religious Council of Kenya (IRCK) had visited our offices in December 2022 as a follow up to the first interaction with the ICRC, IFRC and Kenya Red Cross Society (KRCS) at a prior Iftar dinner.

The IRCK delegation of nine executive members was led by its Chairman Rev. Father Joseph Mutie and the Deputy Director for Programmes Irene Kizito. Ms Kizito outlining the IRCK's structure explained that the organization is made up of nine different religious coordinating bodies that coordinate the work of the three major communities of faith in Kenya – Christians, Muslims and Hindus. Father Mutie added that “there were many similarities between the work of ICRC and of IRCK, though with differing mandates and modes of working” and appreciated the ICRC mandate and operations in the country and globally.

The Nairobi Regional Delegation embraces quality movement collaboration supporting operations and diplomacy within the region. We desire to be seen as a preferred partner working with the Kenya Red Cross, International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) and other partner national societies.

TRANSFORMING EMERGENCY RESPONSE: NAIROBI HOLDS TRAINING FOR NORHOSP EMERGENCY HOSPITAL DEPLOYMENT

For the last two years, the Nairobi's Logistics Centre (LSC) and Norwegian Red Cross (NorCross) teams have worked tirelessly to prepare the NorCross Emergency Hospital for rapid deployment. This exceptional facility can be fully operational within 96 hours of an emergency, complete with essential supplies, medications, and a dedicated staff. Building on their extensive experience deploying hospitals and collaborating with the ICRC, NorCross sought to enhance their impact through regular joint deployments.

This pursuit led to the inception of the NorCross Emergency Hospital Harmonization and Logistics Management Project (NorHosp), which involved transferring logistical responsibilities from Oslo to Nairobi's ICRC LSC. The project aimed to standardize equipment and medication, streamlining future deployments.

After successful procurement, assembly, and kitting, the emergency hospital now resides in Nairobi's LSC warehouse. From June 17th to 24th, over 64 participants and facilitators gathered in Nairobi to conduct a comprehensive Pre-deployment training in a simulated emergency setting. Notably, this marked the first time the



training was held in the field, simulating emergency scenarios.

Following classroom training sessions, the doctors, logisticians and hospital management teams turned to field scenarios at a site prepared for them. Volunteers from the Kenya Red Cross Society (KRCS) skillfully portrayed realistic emergencies, catching doctors, surgeons, and nurses off guard. As the training progressed, the medical teams quickly adapted, anticipating patient influx, performing triage, addressing life-threatening situations in the operating theater, and conducting ward rounds as if they were in the midst of a genuine crisis. Guided by 16 dedicated facilitators, the participants remained fully engaged throughout the training.

“The purpose of this training is to equip the participants for deployment, this is not something that can be done in the classroom; there have to be real tents, real people, and in a setting which mirrors likely scenarios,” said Olav Aasland, Senior Advisor for emergency health and a training facilitator for Norcross.

“We have seasoned medical teams from ICRC and NorCross as participants working very close together which is important because they practice working together for the future,” he added.

The teams learnt how to work in conflicts and other situations of violence, where stress management and acute contextual awareness are key elements for the effective delivery of services. The training equipped participants with tools to identify security risks and related mitigating actions while ensuring duty of care for all team members. The mass casualty scene tasked them to work outpatient flow systems, reception of patients in the emergency room as well as ensure sphere health guidelines are upheld. Other training elements included the handling of internal and external communication as well as working with host national societies in the areas they are deployed to.



Logisticians assembling hospital parts during the training.



Norwegian Ambassador Gunnar Andreas Holm (centre), his team, Norcross and ICRC staff when he visited the training site.

Medical teams were required to pre-position themselves from setting up an emergency hospital, managing it and the patients, and after the training, packing up the equipment back into boxes, ready for the next emergency. Most of the hospital setup was carried out by logistics and technicians but the setting up of the Operating theatre was carried out by the doctors.

For logistics, it was interesting watching the specialists set up different areas in record time based on their familiarity with the meticulous and pragmatic manner in which all the field hospital modules and materials are carefully packed in tagged boxes. A key element of the ‘surge mechanism’ is to ensure that the standardized modules and sub-modules are packed in boxes by function so that medical teams can find their modules quickly. The colour tagging and branding on the yellow boxes for ‘operating theatre’, green for ‘nursing’ blue and green for ‘maternity equipment’, make it easy for the medical teams to find what they need while the brown tagged ‘support’ crates are for the technicians to assemble tents, for instance, and inflate them as quickly as possible.

The setup of these modules is deliberate such that requesters can either ask for a whole hospital unit if required or sections of the same depending on what is missing in their emergency setup.

The Norwegian Ambassador to Kenya Gunnar Andreas Holm visited the team to get a sense of the work going on

around the NorHosp project. Amb Holm noted that he had heard about the project and was therefore glad to visit and see firsthand the pressure on humanitarian workers which is increasing everywhere. He also noted he was impressed with the work done having spent some time with the team on the ground.

On the work done to make this a reality, LSC Head Mauro Iacona notes, "I take great pride in the synergy within our teams, their unwavering dedication and expertise, coupled with seamless collaboration among our colleagues in Geneva, the different National Societies, and the Norwegian Red Cross has been impressive. I also appreciate the invaluable support we receive from our Kenyan counterparts, particularly the support from the Kenyan Authorities".

The field hospital has already been deployed in parts to Ethiopia, Sudan and Chad. The deployments had over 2400 sub-items for Assorted medical and non-medical items. ICRC and Norcross will continue this partnership which is beneficial for humanitarian response globally.



Norcross Training Hospital Video on Vimeo.



The Kenya Red Cross Society (KRCS) remains a key partner in the ICRC's engagement in Kenya. Working closely together, the ICRC collaborates with the KRCS to reinforce its institutional capacity for delivering impactful humanitarian action on both national and local fronts. Through this crucial partnership, the ICRC has expanded its outreach to affected communities, delivering essential assistance through economic

security programs and initiatives geared towards ensuring access to safe water.

Additionally, the ICRC has played an active role in enhancing the skills of KRCS staff and volunteers through specialized training sessions, with a particular emphasis on safer access, especially in sensitive and insecure regions like the Northeastern counties. In 2023, this collaborative effort produced tangible outcomes, including heightened proficiency in addressing access challenges, bolstered emergency response capabilities, and the facilitation of peer learning through structured review sessions.



INNOVATION AND CLIMATE CHANGE



We want to be at the forefront of an environmental conscious humanitarian response and allocate resources to this ambition. We will work with national societies where possible to produce data around climate change impact on communities and on our own response with partners if relevant. We also aim to decrease ICRC's carbon footprint by 25% in Africa.



Ian Muriu/ICRC

We continue to engage other multilateral actors like the UN, Kenyan government and security actors on the protection of the natural environment.

We partnered with the Centre for Humanitarian Affairs (ICHA) Climate Research Unit which carried out scientific research looking at the nexus between climate and security in Lamu County. ICHA also hosted climate vulnerability and capacity assessment workshops in 2 counties to enhance understanding of the climate and security landscape. This will allow the Red Cross to better engage early warnings in the communities where it happens.

A Hub for Innovation and Climate Change
Nairobi Delegation seeks to use internal expertise and partner with other humanitarian actors on the issue of climate change. This includes the use of innovative technologies to get this done

In 2023, ICRC received the Gold standard plaque for leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) from the US Green Building Council for its efforts in green design of its campus. We remain committed to reducing our carbon emissions by 125 tonnes per year, cutting down water use in half through recycling and energy consumption by 40% through efficient use of electricity.

We partnered with a local community organization - the Thogoto Forest Family and Kenya Wildlife Service and planted 960 plants during our tree planting day. Our staff and families engaged in this important exercise as part of our environment commitment charter to help reduce greenhouse emissions and maximize environmental sustainability.

JANUARY - DECEMBER 2023

FACTS AND FIGURES

Towards Humane Prisons: Working on existing relationship with the Kenya Prisons Service (KPS), the International Committee of the Red Cross working with the Kenya Red Cross Society (KRCS) continued its response in places of detention. This consisted of prison visits, donations, training and completion of a medical screening card for inmates. The visits allowed the ICRC to gain a deeper understanding of the humanitarian needs and to share observations and recommendations confidentially with prison officials. Regular activities to restore family links continued.

6,653
BENEFICIARIES
in 5 prisons received assistance (vocational training items, sports equipment, hygiene items, stationery, books.)

ASSISTANCE



53

ICT EQUIPMENT

(laptops, desktops, tablets, printers) donated across 15 prisons to assist in digitalizing medical reports, participate in court proceedings, and monitoring disease outbreaks in prison.

WATER AND SANITATION ASSISTANCE

1,460
INMATES
benefitted from 2 borehole pumps installed for better access to water.

85 KPS staff trained in safe and humane Prison Management. **13 senior KPS** officers trained on Humane Prison Management and Systems Thinking

PRISON MANAGEMENT



52
KPS STAFF
built their capacity in operations and maintenance of prisons, technical training for efficient borehole design and maintenance.



5

PLACES

of detention visited by ICRC Protection Staff



36

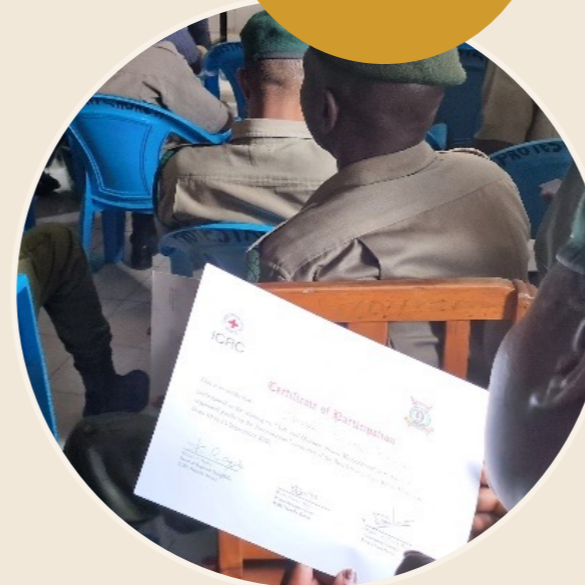
KPS STAFF and Ministry of Health officials trained



100

PRISONS received medication of various types for treatment of inmates.

HEALTH IN DETENTION



10,000

STANDARDIZED screening health cards printed for use across KPS health facilities

2
HIGH LEVEL MEETINGS to coordinate KPS and MOH staff for better support of inmates health management



KENYA

107,503 PHONE CALLS made by inmates in **128** prisons

117,553 PHONE CALLS offered in Dadaab and Kakuma camps

3786 RED CROSS MESSAGES collected, **3610** distributed to families of refugees

46,940 BENEFICIARIES offered internet to connect with their families in refugee camps



RESTORING FAMILY LINKS



DJIBOUTI

20,049 PHONE CALLS offered to migrants

10,300 MIGRANTS benefitted from emergency mobile unit run by Djibouti Red Crescent Society (DRCS)



TANZANIA

38 UNACCOMPANIED MINORS reunited with their parents in Burundi

17005 REFUGEES benefitted from phone call services

1086 RCMS collected, **1035** RCMS distributed

JANUARY - DECEMBER 2023

FACTS AND FIGURES

ENCOURAGING HUMANE TREATMENT OF DETAINEES.



- ICRC delegates conducted **10** visits to **6** priority places of detention, in respect of ICRC modalities, and held confidential dialogues with inmates and authorities on the strengths and weaknesses of the prisons visited.
- **5** priority prisons received donations of stationery items, hygiene items, books, vocational training equipment and sports equipment.
- **85** KPS staff trained in Safe and Humane Prison Management trainings at Shimo La Tewa Maximum, Garissa, and Kisumu Maximum Prison. **13** senior KPS officers participated in a workshop on Humane Prison Management and Systems Thinking.
- **107,503** phone calls successfully made by inmates in **128** prisons to maintain family contact.
- Medical donations to a pool of **48** Kenyan prisons amounting to about **6.7M Kshs**
- Support to digitization of medical data records through training of prison staff and donation of IT equipment, filing cabinets and stationeries to improve record keeping. **10,000** copies of individual patient files for inmates printed for distribution to all KPS facilities across Kenya.
- **1,462** detainees of Shimo La Tewa Max Prison Benefited from improved access to water through the installation of **2** borehole pumps.
- **40** engineering staff of Kenya Prison Service from various prisons from the north Rift and Western region were trained on Good Prison Operation and Maintenance Practices
- **12** engineering staff from KPS HQ received technical training on Efficient Borehole Pumping design and maintenance.

SUPPORTING VULNERABLE COMMUNITIES IN VIOLENCE AFFECTED AREAS.



- **2894** HHs (**17, 364**) individuals received a total of **Kshs 82M**, in multipurpose cash grants in Mandera, Wajir and Garissa counties. These beneficiaries each got three cycles of distribution with the cash used for food purchases, paying medical expenses, meeting education needs. It also allowed the beneficiaries to have regular meals as they were only able to have one meal daily.
- **300** HHs from Gerille in Wajir county received a one-off cash support of **Kshs 6.6M** These includes **200** HHs from Somalia who had been displaced to Gerille in Kenya because of conflict in Somalia. **100** HHs were from Gerille and considered as host community were included in the support.
- **56** youth from Lamu and Garissa undergoing vocational training received cash support to procure start-up kits to set up businesses.
- **121,550** cattle, sheep, and goats from **3445** pastoral HHs benefitted from a livestock vaccination and treatment campaign.
- **54** HHs (**324** Ind) from Boni forest in Lamu county received bee-keeping inputs. Each received **05** beehives, **01** catcher box and a honey harvesting kit. They also received technical extension support from the county livestock production officer.
- **45** HHs (**270** Ind) received fishing inputs.
- **30** Village Savings and Loans Associations (VSLAs) disbursed Kshs **11M** amongst their members during their share-out meetings The VSLAs are supported by the ICRC.
- **320** Households (**1920** Individuals) from **6** villages in Boni forest received seeds (maize, simsim, cowpeas, cassava cuttings, lime trees and passion fruit). They also benefitted from agriculture extension support.
- Working with KRCS and the Garissa Ministry of Health, supported access to health services for vulnerable population in Ijara subcounty through **104** medical outreaches targeting **6421** beneficiaries with a focus in child and maternal health. **1278** women benefitted from family planning services, **623** from ante natal clinic visits while **1569** children and pregnant women received immunizations.



- Ijara Sub County Hospital was rehabilitated and fitted with solar power solutions. The hospital which has a capacity of **15** beds will be able to better serve the residents of Ijara especially pregnant mothers.
- **2,334** persons in Katsaka Kairu, Lamu County have improved access to water through the improvement of water storage and installation of rainwater harvesting system. Many of the residents leaving in the vicinity of the school were displaced from their homes due to terrorist attacks.

SUPPORTING EMERGENCY RESPONSE OF HEALTH STRUCTURES



- **10** participants attended a basic emergency healthcare course for trainers in counties along the Kenya / Somalia border.
- **34** participants attended the Weapon Wounded Surgery course held for doctors from conflict-affected counties

RESTORING FAMILY LINKS



- **117,553** phone calls offered in Dadaab and Kakuma camps
- **46,940** beneficiaries offered internet to connect with their families and maintain family links in the refugee camps.

PROMOTING RESPECT FOR INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW (IHL)



- Sessions on IHL and international standards of law enforcement were organized for armed and security forces. This included peacekeeping pre-deployment training for **98** officers and IHL training for **107** officers of different ranks all from the Kenya Defence Forces (KDF). **6** senior officers were supported to attend various expert meetings around the continent.



- **105** students from two universities benefited from IHL training sessions.
- **120** students from **7** countries in the region participated in an essay competition on challenges of armed conflict and climate change.



- **51** Kenyan students participated in the National Moot court competition with Kenyatta University emerging winners



- **35** technical advisors on IHL from various government ministries in Kenya, Tanzania, Djibouti, Rwanda, Uganda, South Sudan, Somalia, and Ethiopia participated in the Regional IHL seminar aimed at strengthening the implementation of the law.



- **42** participants attended a seminar on Data Protection in Humanitarian emergencies organized together with Maastricht University Faculty of Law and the European Centre on Privacy and Cybersecurity (ECPC).
- **38** senior humanitarian professionals attended a weeklong training on IHL.



- **51** media practitioners strengthened their knowledge on the Red Cross movement and principles of humanitarian reporting.

- **50** Islamic clerics and scholars engaged in bilateral meetings increasing their understanding of the Red Cross mandate and emblem

- **90** religious leaders attended iftar dinners sponsored by ICRC across Garissa, Mombasa, and Lamu Counties

PARTNERING FOR RED CROSS, RED CRESCENT RESPONSE



- **792** community leaders and members sensitized on the emblem, role, mandate, and activities of ICRC / KRCS



- **500,000** people reached through Operational Communication messages transmitted via radio in Garissa, Mandera, Isiolo and Samburu counties



- **25** body bags, **83** hooded masks as well as logistical support given to support KRCS' response to the Shakahola tragedy in Kilifi County.

- **36** participants from Norwegian Red Cross / ICRC attended a rapid deployment training to prepare them for emergency deployment of a field hospital. The hospital with a capacity for **60** beds and surgical wards is kitted and hosted at the Nairobi Logistics Support Centre.

- **7** engineering staff of KRCS received technical training on efficient borehole pumping



- **210** staff and volunteers on safer access with procurement of PPE including **6** Occupational First Aid Kits, **228** emblem jackets, and **184** bibs to bolster visibility and safety.
- Contributed to the review and printing of **4,500** Security Handbooks and **4,500** SAF Handbooks. provided **2** laptops for reporting and contributed to the mid-term review of branch development plans across all **47** counties.

REGIONAL LOGISTICS SUPPORT CENTER (LSC)

LOGISTICS SUPPORT TO HUMANITARIAN OPERATIONS



- LSC purchased goods worth **26M USD (2'809** Purchase orders) for dispatch to various emergencies.
- **49** countries received goods weighing **5920** Metric Tonnes amounting to **41.7M USD**. The top **5** receiving destinations were Ethiopia, Somalia, Jordan, South Sudan, and DR Congo accounting for a total of **3M CHF** in support. Approximately half of these goods were procured in Kenya.
- **300** participants from the region received new knowledge on various logistical practices in **27** training sessions. The LSC is a centre of excellence in logistics practice.
- **230**-line items dispatched to Khartoum and Port Sudan in response to the crisis in Sudan.
- Successfully completed **4** deployments of relief line items supported by the Norwegian Red Cross (Norcross) to Ethiopia, Sudan, Chad, and Amman for Gaza. The deployments had over **2400** sub-items for Assorted medical and non-medical items.

DJIBOUTI

RESTORING FAMILY LINKS



- **20,049** calls provided to refugees and migrants allowing them to restore and maintain family contact.
- **10,300** migrants, majority being women and children benefited from the life-saving mobile emergency unit for migrants run by the Djibouti Red Crescent Society and ICRC. The mobile unit provides phone calls, first aid support, water, and dry food.
- **800** lifesaving information booklets were distributed to migrants in Dikhil, Obock during an evaluation exercise to determine their usefulness.
- **20** first responders participated in training on dead body management facilitated by an ICRC forensic delegate. The workshop was funded by for the International Organization of Migration (IOM).

LOGISTICS SUPPORT TO HUMANITARIAN OPERATIONS



- **887** detainees: Facilitated the exchange of detainees from all sides in Yemen under ICRC's role as a neutral intermediary.

PARTNERING FOR RED CROSS, RED CRESCENT RESPONSE



- Thanks to ICRC support, the DRCS has raised the visibility of local community activities by distributing - **26** banners produced, **32** megaphones purchased and delivered to the branches, **10** jackets with DRCS logo were delivered to each DRCS branches and **6** committees newly elected.

PROMOTING RESPECT FOR INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW (IHL) AND (IHRL)






- **21** senior officers from the Djibouti army forces were trained on IHL, before being deployed to Somalia
- **26** key interlocutors among them **8** religious leaders attended the ICRC yearly Ramadan Iftar.
- **384** police and GND judicial officers, **20** Japan Self Defense Forces (JSDF) and **115** Coast Guard officers received ICRC continued its dissemination sessions on ICRC, its mandate, and universal principles of International Human Rights Law (IHRL)
- **60** law students from Djibouti University took part in dissemination sessions on IHL

TANZANIA



- **17005** phone calls were successfully offered to beneficiaries in Nyarugusu and Nduta refugee camps.
- **1086** Red Cross Messages collected; **1035** Red Cross Messages were distributed. **38** children were reunited with their relatives in Burundi.
- **600** law students from **3** universities took part in dissemination sessions on IHL. Over **100** police officers from the Tanzania Police Force (TPF) and **200** peacekeepers from the Tanzania People's Defence Forces (TPDF) took part in dissemination sessions on IHL.
- **27** students from **9** African countries participated in the All-Africa Moot Court competition hosted in Arusha, with Great Zimbabwe University emerging winners.
- A meeting with the Minister of Foreign Affairs revived a technical working group on establishing an IHL committee in Tanzania.
- **60** religious' leaders from Mtwara, Pemba, Zanzibar and Dar es Salaam attended Iftar sessions with **40** Madrassa teachers, Imams and Chief Sheiks participating in IHL and Islam sessions. **12** sports wheelchairs, **20** sportswear kits donated to the Kilimanjaro regional wheelchair basketball association during a training session for **20** players under the Physical Rehabilitation Program. To promote wheelchair basketball and amputee football in mainland Tanzania and Zanzibar, **100** pairs of crutches and **12** sports wheelchairs were donated to the Tanzania Paralympic Committee.
- The Tanzania Training Centre for Orthopedic Technologists (TATCOT) received **20,000** USD to promote national and regional training of technologists.

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Cover photo:

A young child in Kakuma speaks to his family using services offered by Kenya Red Cross to restore family links.



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