



Issue No.1, September 2006

## ICRC BULLETIN

### Dear Reader,

Welcome to the first edition of the 'ICRC Bulletin' produced by the International Committee of the Red Cross. We aim to provide you with a snapshot of the ICRC's diverse humanitarian activities worldwide and in the Asia-Pacific region in particular. I hope that reading the 'ICRC Bulletin' will encourage you to contact us to find out more.

Whether in Lebanon or Somalia, Sudan or Colombia, or, in this region, in Sri Lanka or the Philippines, armed conflicts cause untold human misery among civilians and those who are detained, wounded or sick. The ICRC works to alleviate their suffering right where it happens, bringing assistance and protection to millions every year. As a neutral, independent and strictly humanitarian organisation, it tries to reach victims of conflicts on all sides of the world's frontlines.

In countries at peace such as Japan, the ICRC's most important task is to raise awareness of international humanitarian law (IHL), the body of rules devised by the community of states to limit the human suffering caused by armed conflicts. To do this, it seeks to establish contact and partnerships with the government and other key institutions such as the Japanese Red Cross Society, the Self-Defence Forces and universities.

This edition of the 'ICRC Bulletin' presents some key data from our latest annual report to give an idea of the scope of our worldwide activities. It also features an article on our work at Juba Teaching Hospital in South Sudan, a project that has received considerable financial support from the Japanese government. Finally, we introduce you to our regional office in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, which is in charge of the ICRC's programmes in Japan.

### From Ideals to Action

Even more than 60 years after the end of World War Two Dr. Marcel Junod remains probably the best-known ICRC representative in Japan. He was the first foreign doctor to witness the unspeakable carnage wrought by the atomic bomb in Hiroshima. While driven by his unwavering commitment to humanitarian ideals, Dr. Junod was a pragmatist who knew that humanitarian action must constantly adapt to changing situations and emerging needs. The ICRC knows that ideals and principles count for little if they are not translated into concrete action to help the weak and vulnerable.

We could not do what we do without the political, moral and financial support of countries like Japan. I hope that the 'ICRC Bulletin' - the ICRC's first-ever regular publication in Japanese - will provide a catalyst for further dialogue with all those in Japan who share our objectives. Therefore, I ask you to please also forward this 'ICRC Bulletin' to your colleagues and friends who might be interested. Thank you.

**Werner Kaspar**  
Regional Delegation  
ICRC Kuala Lumpur



**Photo: Tyre, Lebanon**

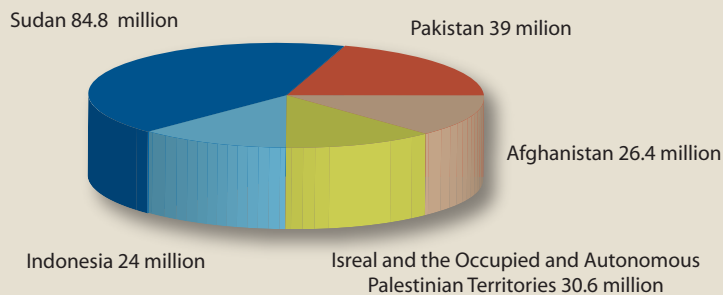
ICRC staff member at scene of destruction in Tyre

**ICRC**

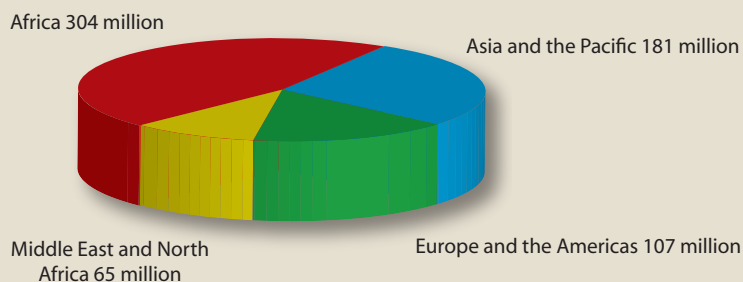


## THE ICRC IN 2005

### Five Largest Operations in 2005 in terms of expenditure (in USD)



### Distribution of Field Expenditure Continents and Region (in USD)



**Total Field Expenditure: 656 million**

- visited nearly 530,000 detainees held in 2,600 prisons in 76 countries. More than 46,000 detainees were monitored individually
- collected and distributed 960,000 Red Cross messages, helping families separated because of wars or disasters to stay in touch
- provided food to 1.1 million people including internationally displaced people, returnees and residents affected by armed conflicts
- furnished essential household and hygiene items to nearly 2.9 million people
- organised water, sanitation and construction projects in 37 countries benefitting more than 11 million people
- assisted 278 health-care facilities worldwide which helped an estimated 2.4 million people
- supported 141 national Red Cross and Red Crescent societies in areas such as the promotion of international humanitarian law and the restoration of family links
- employed about 12,200 staff on average including 1,500 expatriates

**Photo: Jehlum Valley, Chinari village, Pakistan, 2005**

A child receives medical attention at the Japanese Red Cross basic health unit. The Japanese Red Cross Mobile Clinic operated in conjunction with the ICRC.





© ICRC/HEGER, Boris

## A SIGN OF HOPE JUBA TEACHING HOSPITAL IN SOUTH SUDAN

The ICRC began working at Juba Teaching Hospital (JTH) in 1993, sending a surgical team to treat casualties of the civil war devastating southern Sudan. It also set up laboratory facilities and provided an X-ray machine with the aim of delivering proper emergency surgical and post-operative care to the population in and around Juba Town. The ICRC has been supporting the hospital ever since, currently with 16 international staff members.

The hospital has 400 nursing personnel including 230 students in nursing school. Building their capacity through training is an ICRC priority with expert nursing staff providing daily coaching for students in order to expand and refresh their skills. Since 2002, the ICRC has also been training general medical assistants and their counterparts working in the laboratory and operating theatre. ICRC surgeons and a medical doctor are involved in the hands-on supervision of students in the hospital wards.

A first-time visitor to JTH is struck by the sheer number of people crowding the corridors and wards. Women carrying sick babies gather around a nurse arranging outpatient appointments while visitors wander in and out of buildings and prepare meals in the grounds. Amid all the commotion, the ICRC's tiny office is a haven of calm. Even frequent power failures cannot disturb the routine work of hospital management.

Generous donor support has also made it possible for the ICRC to regularly assist the hospital with pharmaceutical, medical and surgical supplies as well as equipment and chemicals for the laboratory, which includes a blood bank. It provides hygiene

material, bedsheets, staff uniforms and fuel for the hospital generator, and covers the cost of patients' meals. The ICRC also supports essential maintenance and repair work at the hospital.

Margaret Sitti, a 53-year old Sudanese assistant head nurse, started working at JTH 30 years ago. "Before the war, there were around 50 doctors working in the hospital," she explains, "but very few of them remained in Juba. There was no support to the hospital, and it deteriorated. Patients had to bring their own medicine, there were problems with the sterilisation, electricity, and water supply, and the staff weren't paid."

Thanks to the ICRC, Margaret has seen the hospital develop into a place where patients know that they will get the best treatment available. Since the signature of the peace agreement between the Sudan government and the main rebel movement in January 2005, JTH has become more accessible for patients from across the region. Between January and May 2006, it admitted 6,400 medical patients and performed more than 1,300 surgical operations.

The dedication of the hospital staff and students, the support of donors, and the ICRC's good cooperation with the local health authorities have helped to make the war-time crisis at JTH Margaret Sitti remembers a distant memory.

**Abu Bakr Gamanga ICRC Juba**

**Photo: Juba, Sudan**  
Lesson given by ICRC nurse at the Teaching Hospital



## PROMOTING IHL IN EAST AND SOUTH-EAST ASIA

Apart from its better-known tasks of providing protection and assistance in the midst of armed conflict, the ICRC also raises awareness and promotes the implementation of international humanitarian law (IHL), the body of rules designed to reduce human suffering at times of war. IHL protects all those who are not, or who are no longer taking part in hostilities. In addition to the Geneva Conventions - to which every state including Japan is a party - IHL comprises treaties regulating the conduct of hostilities and banning or limiting the use of certain weapons such as chemical and biological arms, and antipersonnel landmines. For IHL to be effective it needs to be known and implemented at the national level, including in countries not directly involved in armed conflicts. The ICRC's legal advisory service and its worldwide network of legal experts assists states interested in incorporating IHL norms into national legislation. In many countries, including in the Asia-Pacific region, ICRC experts also support government efforts to set up inter-ministerial IHL committees. Knowledge of IHL is particularly important for armed and security forces potentially involved in situations of armed conflicts, whether as belligerents or as part of an international peace support operation. Drawing on the services of experienced delegates, mainly former serving military or police officers, the ICRC advises armed and security forces on how best to integrate IHL into their training programmes.

The ICRC regularly works with universities teaching IHL as part of their international law or international relations courses. It also reaches out to future leaders through its 'Exploring Humanitarian Law' programme, which allows secondary school students to discover IHL using an innovative mix of learning methods. In South East and East Asia including Japan, these activities are the main responsibility of the ICRC's regional IHL centre based in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Working closely with the Japanese Red Cross Society, the staff of the centre is in regular contact with government, the Self-Defence Forces, universities and others interested in strengthening the legal protection of victims of armed conflicts.

**Photo: Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia**

Participants at the ICRC Roundtable on Customary International Humanitarian Law

**To find out more about ICRC activities, please contact:**

- Military and police forces - Nick Nobbs, Svend Dissing
- Legal advisory service - Alexandre Faite
- Universities - Professor Umesh Kadam
- Exploring Humanitarian Law - Sukhdave Singh

**Regional Delegation Kuala Lumpur**

Level 11, Wisma UOA Damansara  
No. 50, Jalan Dungun, Damansara Heights  
50490 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia  
Tel: +60(3) 2084 1800  
Fax: +60(3) 2084 1999  
e-mail: [kuala\\_lumpur.kua@icrc.org](mailto:kuala_lumpur.kua@icrc.org)  
[www.icrc.org](http://www.icrc.org)



**ICRC**