

Answer key – Preparatory materials

Group assignment A:

You have been given two articles to read: In the magazine *'Humanité'*, published by the SRC, there is a description of the refugee situation in Bulgaria. In the magazine *'Reaktion'*, a member of MSF describes the impact of the civil war in the Central African Republic on the civilian population.

Task A.1

For the article 'Hiding is not a game': *In your opinion, what are the major challenges facing the Swiss Red Cross (SRC) in Bulgaria? Give the reasons for your answer.*

- Bulgaria has problems even without the refugees.
- The infrastructure in the country is not sufficient for dealing with the refugees.
- The number of refugees arriving is making the situation even more difficult.
- Logistical challenges: ensuring availability of medicines, food and shelter.

Task A.2

For the article 'Central Africa: last refuge for the Muslims in Carnot': *In your opinion, what are the main difficulties faced by the more than 2000 people who are compelled to survive months of waiting in a space no larger than half a soccer field? Give the reasons for your answer.*

- For example, the space where they are able/permitted to stay is much too small, so that there is a lack of privacy; the constant psychological stress because of the warlike conditions outside the church, worries about relatives, the uncertainty about how long they will have to stay in this place, etc.

Group assignment B

Task B.1

In 2010, in the north of Pakistan, unusually heavy monsoon rains led to major flooding.

What were the main consequences of the floods that are mentioned in the film?

- Increase in poverty
- Food insecurity because the local population is mainly dependent on their own food production.
- Erosion caused by deforestation and intensive farming, which made the impact of the floods even worse.

The SDC joined with the World Food Programme in responding to the floods. What were the main measures that were taken?

- The main measures were taken in the form of two projects. One was an integrated food security programme, the other was a DRR (disaster risk reduction) programme.
- The integrated food security programme makes it possible, in emergency or disaster situations, to send vital food supplies to the people hit by the disaster.
- The core mission of the SDC is disaster risk reduction. For this reason, as part of the DRR programme, slopes and embankments were reinforced, which it is hoped will better protect the local population against future disasters.

Task B.2

As a result of the civil war in Syria, families with children were compelled to leave their country. For that reason, the SDC supports schools for the children of Syrian refugees in the neighbouring country of Jordan.

What problems already existed at schools in Jordan even before the outbreak of the Syrian civil war, and how did the arrival of the refugee children from Syria make those problems an even greater challenge?

- In Jordan, the state schools already had a problem with overcrowding even before the outbreak of the Syrian civil war. The arrival of the children from Syria has made the situation in the schools even worse.
- The infrastructure in the state schools was inadequate.

What measures did the SDC take in order to help overcome those challenges?

- The SDC is providing support for repair of the roofs, walls and classrooms in 21 state schools, so that the learning environment for the students can be improved.
- The SDC is providing school material for both the children of the Syrian refugees and for Jordanian children. Support is being provided for all of the children in order to avoid giving the Jordanian students the feeling that they are not being treated as well as the refugee children.

Group assignment C

Task C.1

Reporters from the Swiss radio and television network SRF accompanied ICRC staff members in Colombia, where a civil war had been raging between government troops, rebels, paramilitary groups, and criminal gangs for the past 50 years. Under these circumstances, the ICRC has, among other things, provided help to civilians and communities affected by the conflict.

What are the concerns of ICRC staff in the field?

- Example: Luisa – registered nurse: she is frightened by the violence. She asks herself why there is so much violence, and how this will affect the children living there.
- Example: Abraham – ICRC delegate: He is worried that while he is in Colombia, something could happen to his family in Europe and he would not be there to help them. He is also concerned for the safety of his ICRC team.

What is one of the main reasons for the conflict between the state of Colombia and the rebel groups?

- A central factor is the unequal distribution of land in Colombia.
- In addition, the following factors that grew out of the original conflict also play a role: the financing of the rebels through drug dealing or kidnappings, which led to a spiral of violence.

Task C.2

3

The MSF movement is active worldwide in many humanitarian contexts. It carries out projects for the reconstruction and commissioning of hospitals, provides medical care in refugee camps, and helps set up health care systems for particularly vulnerable groups such as street children and slum residents.

According to MSF, what disease poses one of the most serious threats to public health in the Central Asian country of Kyrgyzstan?

- Tuberculosis (TB)

As you can see by looking at the different country profiles, MSF draws a distinction – as also does the ICRC, for example – between local staff and international staff members. What are the reasons for maintaining this distinction?

- An important reason for hiring local staff members is that they are more familiar with the place and they also have a better understanding of the local structures and circumstances. This way, local staff members in organisations like MSF and the ICRC can help build bridges between the civil population that was hit by the crisis and the international staff members.