

# HARARE (regional)

COVERING: Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Zambia, Zimbabwe



ICRC regional delegation ICRC presence

The Harare regional delegation has existed in its current form since 1981, although the ICRC has been present in some of the countries for much longer. It visits detainees in the region, working closely with Zimbabwe's authorities to improve detainees' conditions. It supports Zimbabwe's Mine Action Centre in strengthening its capacities. In Mozambique, it monitors the situation of people in tension-prone/affected areas. Regionwide, it helps separated relatives, including refugees, restore contact; raises awareness of IHL and international human rights law among the authorities and armed/security forces, and helps National Societies develop their operational capacities.

## YEARLY RESULT

Level of achievement of ICRC yearly objectives/plans of action

**HIGH**

## KEY RESULTS/CONSTRAINTS IN 2015

- ▶ Thousands of detainees in Zimbabwe supplemented their diet with prison-farm produce and, during a shortage, ICRC-donated rations. Malnourished detainees received supplementary/therapeutic food regularly.
- ▶ Detainees had more orderly and hygienic living conditions after the Zimbabwe Prison and Correctional Services, backed by the ICRC, repaired/upgraded or constructed key facilities.
- ▶ People saw their mine-related risks reduced as the Zimbabwe Mine Action Centre undertook demining activities with more teams and at a better pace than before, using ICRC-provided training/equipment.
- ▶ Relatives separated by detention, violence or other causes reconnected using Movement family-links services. The National Societies in the region drew on the ICRC's input to enhance their delivery of these.
- ▶ The National Societies of the countries covered took steps to build their capacities to safely and effectively assist vulnerable people, including during emergencies, through ICRC-facilitated training and other means.

PROTECTION	Total
<b>CIVILIANS (residents, IDPs, returnees, etc.)</b>	
<b>Restoring family links</b>	
RCMs collected	570
RCMs distributed	327
People located (tracing cases closed positively)	16
<b>PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses)</b>	
<b>ICRC visits</b>	
Detainees visited	18,944
Detainees visited and monitored individually	173
Number of visits carried out	46
Number of places of detention visited	28
<b>Restoring family links</b>	
RCMs collected	24
RCMs distributed	2
Phone calls made to families to inform them of the whereabouts of a detained relative	218

## EXPENDITURE IN KCHF

Protection	1,736
Assistance	3,503
Prevention	1,250
Cooperation with National Societies	927
General	33
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,448</b>
<i>Of which: Overheads</i>	<b>455</b>

## IMPLEMENTATION RATE

Expenditure/yearly budget	90%
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## PERSONNEL

Mobile staff	9
Resident staff (daily workers not included)	70

## CONTEXT

Economic difficulties in the region were exacerbated by adverse climatic conditions. In Zimbabwe, particularly, people grappled with the unavailability of essential services; detainees endured conditions below internationally recognized standards. Zimbabweans in areas bordering Mozambique continued to be exposed to the risks of mines/explosive remnants of war (ERW); demining operations progressed.

Some of the people displaced by 2014 clashes between the armed forces of Mozambique and the Mozambican National Resistance (RENAMO), the country's main opposition party, remained in an IDP camp. Sporadic confrontations between these parties in 2015 led some people to seek safety in Malawi.

Refugees from the wider region lived in camps in the countries covered. When attacks against foreigners in South Africa took place in April, hundreds of people fled for Malawi, Mozambique and Zimbabwe.

In Zambia, some people arrested in 2014, on security charges linked to longstanding social and political tensions, remained in detention.

## ICRC ACTION AND RESULTS

The ICRC worked with the authorities and National Societies in the countries covered to meet the needs of vulnerable people, notably detainees, and to bolster the National Societies' capacities in such areas as: emergency preparedness/response; restoration of family links; and public communication.

According to its standard procedures, the ICRC conducted visits to detainees to monitor their treatment and living conditions: those held in Zimbabwe by the Zimbabwe Prisons and Correctional Services (ZPCS); those detained in Namibia, in connection with the 1999 Zambezi region (formerly the Caprivi Strip) uprising; and those held on security-related charges in Zambia (see *Context*). Afterwards, the ICRC shared its confidential feedback, including, when necessary, recommendations for improvement, with the authorities.

The ICRC supported the ZPCS as it worked to fulfil its responsibilities in ensuring detainees' food supply. The ZPCS took steps to streamline its management of prison farms, thus boosting production capacities and distributing harvests more efficiently. Detainees supplemented their diets with fresh or dried vegetables from these farms. The ICRC helped the ZPCS address food shortages by covering food-transport costs, facilitating more frequent deliveries and donating rations. It also backed the ZPCS in regularly monitoring detainees' health status; this enabled malnourished detainees to be diagnosed and regularly receive supplementary or therapeutic food. Detainees continued to have health-care access at prison clinics and, when necessary, referral hospitals.

Following repairs/upgrades and construction projects by the ZPCS and the ICRC, which sought to maximize the use of available resources, detainees had more orderly living conditions. The biogas-energy system in one major prison was reactivated; in another, the construction of such a system was completed. Prisons had improved water systems and better cooking facilities. Through pilot projects involving the production of chlorine and cleaning materials, detainees contributed to achieving more sanitary surroundings for themselves. In Namibia and Zimbabwe,

detainees eased their confinement with the help of donated household essentials.

Towards helping mitigate the consequences of widespread mine/ERW contamination in the country, the ICRC continued supporting the Zimbabwe Mine Action Centre (ZIMAC). Pursuant to a cooperation agreement with the authorities, the ICRC provided the ZIMAC with basic equipment and conducted refresher courses for key staff, enabling the ZIMAC to increase the number of its demining teams and the pace at which these worked.

Whenever possible, the ICRC partnered with the Malawi Red Cross Society, the Mozambique Red Cross Society, the Namibia Red Cross, the Zambia Red Cross Society and the Zimbabwe Red Cross Society to assist vulnerable people. People separated from their relatives, such as unaccompanied minors, drew on family-links services provided with/through the pertinent National Society. The five National Societies also increased their ability to carry out their activities more safely and effectively.

The ICRC, at times with the region's National Societies, reinforced relations with the authorities, weapon bearers, members of the international community, and civil society representatives throughout the region, through such means as bilateral dialogue, dissemination sessions and public-communication initiatives. These also helped to foster acceptance for humanitarian principles, IHL, other pertinent norms/standards and the Movement.

Movement partners continued to meet regularly, enhancing cooperation and coordination between them.

## CIVILIANS

### Zimbabweans see their mine/ERW-related risks reduced

The ZIMAC's mine-clearance unit received basic protective/other equipment and, before the start of its 2015 operations, 15 team leaders and instructors joined refresher courses on their roles. The unit increased the number of its demining teams and the pace at which these worked, in connection with such ICRC backing.

The ZIMAC continued to coordinate and monitor demining activities in the country to ensure their conformity with domestic mine-action standards. It remained housed within military premises, owing to budgetary constraints. ZIMAC continued to receive ICRC support, in line with a 2012 agreement between the Zimbabwean government and the ICRC, which was extended to end-2015.

During an evaluation of mine-risk awareness in one district by the armed forces and the ICRC, government representatives and senior police officers learnt more about the ICRC, particularly its work in the field of humanitarian demining.

### Dispersed relatives reconnect using Movement family-links services

Unaccompanied minors in Malawi and Zimbabwe – 40 and 62, respectively – were identified, registered and had their cases followed up by the pertinent National Society, jointly with the ICRC. Refugees in Malawi, Namibia and Zambia, and people who fled South Africa (see *Context*), lodged tracing requests or exchanged news with their relatives through RCMs.

To help ensure that a greater number of people separated by violence, migration or other causes could restore/maintain contact,

the National Societies in the countries covered received the ICRC's encouragement/support to incorporate family-links services into their emergency response and to enhance their coordination of such services. The Malawian and Zimbabwean National Societies, for instance, received technical/financial input to improve their monitoring of unaccompanied minors (see above). Personnel of all five National Societies, including managers, furthered their knowledge in restoring family links, among other areas, during workshops (see *Actors of influence*).

### **Mozambican actors are encouraged to ensure vulnerable people's welfare**

In Mozambique, people remaining in an IDP camp had their circumstances monitored by the National Society and, particularly through its Maputo office, the ICRC. Those who fled for Malawi likewise received close attention (see *Context*).

The Mozambican authorities and RENAMO representatives were encouraged by the ICRC to safeguard the welfare of these displaced and other potentially vulnerable people and to facilitate humanitarian access to them, when necessary.

### **PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM**

Detainees had their treatment and living conditions monitored during visits by the ICRC, conducted according to its standard procedures. Among the people visited were: those held in Zimbabwe by the ZPCS, including inmates of a maximum-security prison; those detained in Namibia in connection with the 1999 Zambezi region uprising; and some people held in Zambia (see *Context*). Following these visits, the authorities received confidential feedback, encompassing, when necessary, recommendations for improvement, particularly with regard to applicable law enforcement standards (see also *Actors of influence*).

ZPCS officials, amid resource constraints, regularly addressed the points raised by the ICRC (see below). Dialogue with the Zimbabwean justice ministry, concerning its interest in updating detention-related laws, was maintained.

Several detainees used Movement family-links services to reconnect with their relatives. Those in Namibia received National Society/ICRC-facilitated visits from their families; the situation of some 30 detainees released in September was monitored by the ICRC. About 150 foreign detainees in Zimbabwe returned home after their release, with support from their families.

### **Detainees gain from measures to address food-supply gaps**

The ZPCS sustained efforts to fulfil its responsibilities in providing sufficient food to detainees, with support from the ICRC. The ZPCS consistently monitored the food supply and inmates' nutritional status, enabling it to take appropriate action, including for malnourished detainees (see below). Detainees in all prisons visited by the ICRC underwent assessment in this regard upon their arrival and every month thereafter.

To address a slight decline in detainees' nutritional status during the first three months of 2015, the authorities increased the frequency of food deliveries; the ICRC covered additional transport costs. Some 17,500 detainees also benefited from rations donated by the ICRC to make up for the shortfall.

In parallel, the ZPCS strove to implement longer-term solutions to ensure detainees' food supply. In line with the recommendations of a

2013 study, the ZPCS took steps to streamline its management of its prison farms, thus boosting production capacities and distributing harvests more efficiently. Although adverse climatic conditions and inadequate irrigation affected the yields of fresh produce, over 18,000 detainees were able to consume vegetables previously preserved in several prisons equipped with drying facilities. The ZPCS used ICRC-provided agricultural inputs for tracts of arable land – totalling over 200 hectares – identified by the ICRC.

### **Detainees access suitable health services**

A monthly average of 355 inmates with moderate acute malnutrition obtained supplementary rations through a programme of the ZPCS and the ICRC covering 25 prisons; a total of 245 detainees with severe acute malnutrition received therapeutic food directly from the ICRC. Their health status was checked weekly. In one place of detention, the programme was co-implemented by ZPCS and health ministry representatives, who were encouraged to further develop their cooperation.

The health needs of all detainees were regularly monitored by ZPCS health supervisors during joint field trips with the ICRC. These trips provided on-site training opportunities for prison health workers, who also learnt more, at workshops, about diagnosing and treating malnutrition among detainees.

Detainees continued to have health-care access through prison clinics – which used ICRC-donated medical essentials and office equipment/supplies – and were transferred to referral hospitals, when necessary.

### **Detainees have more orderly and hygienic living conditions**

Around 7,200 detainees in Zimbabwe benefited from repairs/upgrades and construction projects by the ZPCS and the ICRC, which sought to maximize the use of available resources. The biogas-energy system in one major prison was reactivated; in another, the construction of such a system was completed. Four prisons had a more reliable supply of clean water. In four others, the installation of foot-powered pumps enabled untreated water to be used for irrigation, thus saving on potable water. Ten kitchens were refurbished. Through pilot projects, prisoners produced chlorine and cleaning materials, facilitating their participation in achieving more sanitary surroundings for themselves.

The ZPCS and the ICRC completed a training plan for kitchen workers, to help ensure the long-term functionality of the renovated facilities. Members of the ZPCS construction unit worked to develop guidelines on infrastructural operation/maintenance for prisons countrywide. They also studied the allocation of space in 45 prisons, towards increasing the efficiency of such allocation. A draft protocol on delousing campaigns, drafted by the ZPCS with ICRC support, awaited approval from the health ministry.

Several thousand detainees, including those visited in Namibia, eased their confinement with the help of donated toiletries, underwear and linens.

### **Former detainees' experience suggest need for more nuanced support**

In Namibia, 44 former detainees who obtained agricultural equipment and training from the National Society and the ICRC in 2014 received follow-up visits. These revealed that while the beneficiaries appreciated the assistance, the results were compromised by the poor climate and the need for the support to be better aligned with the beneficiaries' skills.

## ACTORS OF INFLUENCE

In the countries covered, the authorities, weapon bearers, members of the international community and civil society representatives were engaged by the ICRC through dialogue/networking and events, at times with the National Societies (see below). These fostered acceptance for humanitarian principles, IHL, other pertinent norms/standards and the Movement, and helped facilitate activities for vulnerable people (see *Civilians* and *People deprived of their freedom*).

### Armed/security forces enhance their knowledge of IHL and other applicable norms

Before their deployment to field exercises or peace-support operations, some 2,000 security officers from Malawi and Zimbabwe attended briefings, many of which were conducted with the National Society concerned. Namibian and Zambian troops working in their own countries joined dissemination sessions. These events covered humanitarian principles and the Movement. Contact with the Mozambican armed/police forces was maintained.

Around 350 military and police officers gained sharper insight into the norms and standards pertinent to armed conflict and law enforcement operations, including arrest and detention, while attending courses at the South African Development Community (SADC) training centre in Zimbabwe, or at other institutions in Namibia or Zimbabwe. The SADC centre entered into an agreement on incorporating IHL into its programmes with the ICRC; this also facilitated dialogue on subjects of mutual interest.

During a seminar in Zimbabwe, experts from SADC member States discussed best practices for addressing the challenges faced by health workers during peace-support operations; recommendations were later shared with the authorities of the countries concerned.

### Authorities continue to draw on ICRC advice regarding IHL integration

In Namibia, justice ministry officials renewed a memorandum of understanding with the ICRC, first signed in 2012, on the organization's support for domestic IHL implementation. Parliamentarians advanced their understanding of IHL using a handbook produced by the National Society, with ICRC technical support.

The Zimbabwean national IHL committee maintained its work, albeit constrained by the government's other legislative priorities. Malawian and Zambian officials sought ICRC input on reinvigorating their own such committees, which had been inactive in past years.

At a regional IHL seminar, nine officials from the countries covered helped draft a pledge in support of the Strengthening IHL process (see *Pretoria*). Twenty State representatives joined a round-table co-hosted by Zambia and the ICRC to promote, and foster exchanges on, the ratification and implementation of the Convention on Cluster Munitions, contributing to some of the participants' preparations for international conferences on the treaty (see *International law and policy*).

### Future decision-makers hone their IHL competence

In Namibia, law students furthered their knowledge through dissemination sessions by the National Society/ICRC; National Society staff trained in delivering these autonomously. University students from such fields as law and political science learnt more during ICRC-facilitated lectures in Malawi, Zambia and

Zimbabwe. Students from Malawi and Zimbabwe joined moot court competitions, either locally or abroad (see *Washington*). Malawian students at a security-studies institute developed research papers. A Zambian university discussed the curricular integration of IHL with the ICRC.

Journalists, especially in Mozambique and Zimbabwe, continued to be encouraged to cover humanitarian issues. Aside from media reports, members of the international community and civil society had access to National Society/ICRC-produced/distributed print and digital materials, and public events, such as the celebrations marking World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day (8 May).

All five National Societies participated in workshops to strengthen their strategies/activities in public communication and other areas. Notably, Zambia Red Cross staff/volunteers honed their skills in interacting with local community members and media actors.

## RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT

Some of the region's National Societies worked jointly with the ICRC; all five drew on its technical and financial support to develop strategic plans and bolster their capacities in emergency preparedness/response, notably by applying the Safer Access Framework, and other areas (see *Civilians* and *Actors of influence*). The Zambia Red Cross conducted train-the-trainer seminars for its first-aiders.

Each National Society sustained efforts to reinforce its legal base and organizational structure, backed by the ICRC and other Movement partners. The Namibia Red Cross continued working on revisions to its status law. The Malawian and Namibian National Societies elected new leaders and trained staff/volunteers in financial management. All the National Societies endeavoured to strengthen their human resource management – for instance, the Mozambique Red Cross and the Zambia Red Cross pursued disciplinary/legal action against some personnel.

Regular interaction between the National Societies and other Movement components – such as at a regional meeting (see *Pretoria*) and at the 32nd International Conference – helped enhance cooperation and coordination.

MAIN FIGURES AND INDICATORS: PROTECTION		Total			
<b>CIVILIANS (residents, IDPs, returnees, etc.)</b>					
<b>Red Cross messages (RCMs)</b>			UAMs/SC*		
RCMs collected		570	30		
RCMs distributed		327	2		
<b>Tracing requests, including cases of missing persons</b>			Women	Girls	Boys
People for whom a tracing request was newly registered		67	15	14	13
<i>including people for whom tracing requests were registered by another delegation</i>		14			
People located (tracing cases closed positively)		16			
<i>including people for whom tracing requests were registered by another delegation</i>		2			
Tracing cases still being handled at the end of the reporting period (people)		146	32	29	35
<i>including people for whom tracing requests were registered by another delegation</i>		24			
<b>UAMs/SC*, including unaccompanied demobilized child soldiers</b>			Girls		Demobilized children
UAMs/SC newly registered by the ICRC/National Society		10	6		
UAM/SC cases still being handled by the ICRC/National Society at the end of the reporting period		112	54		
<b>Documents</b>					
People to whom travel documents were issued		6			
<b>PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses)</b>					
<b>ICRC visits</b>			Women	Minors	
Detainees visited		18,944	383	120	
			Women	Girls	Boys
Detainees visited and monitored individually		173		2	59
Detainees newly registered		99		2	59
Number of visits carried out		46			
Number of places of detention visited		28			
<b>Restoring family links</b>					
RCMs collected		24			
RCMs distributed		2			
Phone calls made to families to inform them of the whereabouts of a detained relative		218			
Detainees visited by their relatives with ICRC/National Society support		72			

\*Unaccompanied minors/separated children

MAIN FIGURES AND INDICATORS: ASSISTANCE		Total	Women	Children
<b>PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses)</b>				
<b>Economic security, water and habitat (in some cases provided within a protection programme)</b>				
Food commodities	Beneficiaries	17,452		
Essential household items	Beneficiaries	15,118		
Productive inputs	Beneficiaries	15,612		
<b>Water and habitat (in some cases provided within a protection programme)</b>				
Water and habitat activities	Beneficiaries	7,226		
<b>Health</b>				
Number of visits carried out by health staff		50		
Number of places of detention visited by health staff		25		
Number of health facilities supported in places of detention visited by health staff		20		