

# HARARE (regional)

COVERING: Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Zambia, Zimbabwe



ICRC/AR\_2016  
 ICRC regional delegation ICRC office

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 and security forces; and helps National Societies develop their operational capacities.

## KEY RESULTS/CONSTRAINTS IN 2016

- ▶ Detainees in Namibia, Zambia and Zimbabwe received ICRC visits. Some restored or maintained contact with relatives, using Movement family-links services – notably, security detainees in Namibia were visited by their families.
- ▶ In Zimbabwe, detainees supplemented their diet with prison-farm produce and, during shortages, ICRC-donated rations. Malnourished detainees addressed their condition with specialized food from the authorities and/or the ICRC.
- ▶ The Zimbabwe Mine Action Centre enhanced its ability to conduct demining activities, with ICRC support for staff training initiatives. It also obtained basic tools and equipment, towards developing additional mine-clearance teams.
- ▶ Authorities in the region – such as national IHL committee members – security forces and other key actors, honed their grasp of IHL, other norms and pertinent standards, via the ICRC's dialogue, networking and events with them.
- ▶ The National Societies in the countries covered took steps to build their capacities in such fields as family-links services, emergency response, and public communication, with technical and financial backing from the ICRC.

## EXPENDITURE IN KCHF

Protection	1,963
Assistance	3,336
Prevention	1,384
Cooperation with National Societies	665
General	42
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,390</b>
<i>Of which: Overheads</i>	<i>451</i>

## IMPLEMENTATION RATE

Expenditure/yearly budget	89%
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## PERSONNEL

Mobile staff	9
Resident staff (daily workers not included)	69

## YEARLY RESULT

Level of achievement of ICRC yearly objectives/plans of action

**MEDIUM**

PROTECTION	Total
<b>CIVILIANS (residents, IDPs, returnees, etc.)</b>	
<b>Restoring family links</b>	
RCMs collected	515
RCMs distributed	377
Phone calls facilitated between family members	145
Tracing cases closed positively (subject located or fate established)	141
People reunited with their families	117
<i>of whom unaccompanied minors/separated children</i>	109
<b>PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses)</b>	
<b>ICRC visits</b>	
Detainees visited	15,035
Detainees visited and monitored individually	89
Number of visits carried out	48
Number of places of detention visited	27
<b>Restoring family links</b>	
RCMs collected	10
RCMs distributed	7
Phone calls made to families to inform them of the whereabouts of a detained relative	129

## CONTEXT

Economic difficulties in the region were exacerbated by adverse climatic conditions caused by the El Niño phenomenon.

People in Zimbabwe grappled with the unavailability of essential services, including within the penitentiary system – detainees endured conditions below internationally recognized standards. The government implemented a countrywide scheme aimed at ensuring the supply of maize; the detaining authorities registered prison farms in the scheme.

In Namibia and Zambia, some people arrested on security-related charges remained in detention.

Although demining operations in Zimbabwe progressed, people along the country's border with Mozambique continued to be at risk from mines/explosive remnants of war (ERW).

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. Skirmishes between these parties in 2016 led to further displacement – some people fled to Malawi and Zimbabwe. Refugees from the wider region, particularly Burundi and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, continued to arrive or remained in the countries covered.

Bouts of violence were reported in: Zambia, linked to the general elections held in August; and Zimbabwe, in relation to civil protests fuelled by rising social and political tensions.

## ICRC ACTION AND RESULTS

The ICRC's Harare regional delegation worked with the authorities and National Societies in the region to help address the needs of vulnerable people and to bolster the National Societies' capacities in such fields as: family-links services; emergency response; and public communication. It prepared to hand over coverage of Mozambique to the Pretoria regional delegation, beginning in 2017.

In accordance with 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, including people held in connection with the 1999 Zambezi region (formerly the Caprivi Strip) uprising; and those held in Zambia on security-related charges. Based on these visits, the ICRC shared confidential feedback, including recommendations for improvement, with the authorities concerned. Some detainees contacted their relatives, using Movement family-links services. Notably, in Namibia, security detainees received National Society/ICRC-facilitated family visits.

The ICRC backed the ZPCS as it worked to fulfil its responsibilities in ensuring detainees' food supply. During shortages, the ICRC helped facilitate some deliveries of food by providing transportation or fuel to the ZPCS, and donated rations to detainees. The ZPCS continued to streamline its management of prison farms. With the ICRC, ZPCS health workers regularly monitored detainees' nutritional status, enabling malnourished detainees to be diagnosed in a timely manner and receive supplementary or therapeutic food. Detainees continued to have health-care access through prison clinics and, as necessary, referral hospitals.

Detainees had more orderly surroundings through the maintenance of or improvements to water, sanitation, ventilation and other facilities by the ZPCS and the ICRC. These efforts were undertaken in line with the guidelines that the ZPCS had developed, with ICRC input. Support to biogas-energy systems facilitated the more sustainable use of resources. Such also helped improve sewage networks and, alongside upgrades to kitchens, expand cooking capacities. By participating in projects to produce chlorine solution and cleaning materials, some inmates contributed to making their living conditions more sanitary. In Namibia and Zimbabwe, detainees eased their confinement with the help of donated household essentials. Former security detainees in Namibia received financial assistance to facilitate their social reintegration.

Pursuant to a cooperation agreement with the authorities to help mitigate the consequences of widespread mine/ERW contamination in the country, the ICRC continued supporting the Zimbabwe Mine Action Centre (ZIMAC). The ICRC facilitated training courses for key staff members, and donated basic tools and equipment to enable the ZIMAC to develop additional mine-clearance teams.

The ICRC monitored the situation of people displaced by clashes in Mozambique. Through representations, the organization urged the Mozambican authorities and RENAMO representatives to safeguard the welfare of these and other potentially vulnerable people.

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 help people in need. People separated from their relatives – such as unaccompanied minors – used family-links services provided with or through the pertinent National Society, to reconnect with them. The National Societies also increased their ability to operate safely and effectively, with ICRC technical and financial support.

Throughout the region, the ICRC – at times with the National Societies – engaged authorities, weapon bearers, members of the international community, and civil society representatives, through dialogue, networking and events, fostering acceptance for IHL and other pertinent norms, applicable standards, and the Movement. National IHL committees drew on the ICRC's IHL expertise; in Zambia, this contributed to facilitating the government's ratification of the Arms Trade Treaty.

Periodic interaction between Movement partners helped bolster coordination of activities.

## CIVILIANS

### Mozambican actors are urged to ensure the welfare of vulnerable people

The situation of people displaced by clashes in Mozambique, including those who remained in an IDP camp or fled to neighbouring countries (see *Context*), was monitored by the ICRC; some received help to contact relatives (see below). ICRC representations urged Mozambican authorities and RENAMO representatives to safeguard the welfare of these and other potentially vulnerable people, and, when necessary, to facilitate humanitarian access to them.

To help ensure an appropriate response to the humanitarian needs of refugees, notably unaccompanied minors, in the countries covered (see *Context*), the ICRC regularly coordinated with the authorities concerned and the UNHCR.

### **ZIMAC enhances its ability to conduct demining activities**

As per a 2012 agreement between the Zimbabwean government and the ICRC, extended to end-2016, ZIMAC continued to draw on ICRC technical and material support. Before the start of their annual operations, 15 members of the mine-clearance unit participated in refresher courses. Ten other personnel trained in quality assurance and control. During a study tour in Lebanon, two senior ZIMAC officials, and one representative of the National Mine Action Authority of Zimbabwe, deepened their understanding of data and quality management systems, mine-risk education, and victim-assistance programmes. ZIMAC received basic tools and equipment, towards developing additional mine-clearance teams, and updated a plan of action to help advance ongoing demining efforts. It 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.

### **Unaccompanied minors see their cases followed up more systematically**

So that a greater number of family members dispersed by violence, migration or other causes could reconnect (see *Context*), the National Societies in the region strengthened their ability to deliver family-links services, with the help of ICRC-provided training – including during joint activities in the field – and/or financial support. Unaccompanied minors in Malawi and Zimbabwe – 59 and 66 respectively – saw their cases followed up more systematically by the pertinent National Societies; the Malawi Red Cross, in particular, initiated monthly monitoring. The Malawi Red Cross also enabled 145 Congolese or Burundian refugees to contact relatives by telephone. Other people separated from their relatives lodged tracing requests or exchanged news using RCMs, with the help of the National Society concerned and/or the ICRC.

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

In accordance with its standard procedures, the ICRC visited detainees to monitor their treatment and living conditions: those held in Zimbabwe, by the ZPCS; those detained in Namibia; and those held in Zambia, on security-related charges. Particularly vulnerable detainees, such as minors, security detainees, and those with mental health issues, were followed up individually. In Namibia, those detained in connection with the 1999 Zambezi region uprising eased their situation with the help of ICRC-donated clothing and toiletries. People previously held on similar charges, and released in December 2015, obtained one-off ICRC cash grants. Such enabled them to cover the costs of their journey home and take steps to resume livelihood activities, helping facilitate their social reintegration.

Some detainees contacted their relatives, using Movement family-links services. In Namibia, security detainees received National Society/ICRC-facilitated family visits. Inmates in Zimbabwe relayed information on their whereabouts through phone calls – made by ICRC delegates on their behalf – or RCMs.

Based on its visits, the ICRC shared confidential feedback, including recommendations for improvement, with the authorities concerned. Amid resource constraints, the ZPCS regularly addressed the points raised by the ICRC (see below).

During ICRC workshops held at their request, ZPCS officials learnt more about internationally recognized detention standards and how to integrate these into their prison-management practices and

training curriculum for personnel under the audit and inspectorate unit. The Malawian detaining authorities were encouraged to conduct staff training on these standards. Military and police officers from the region augmented their knowledge of norms and standards applicable to law enforcement (see *Actors of influence*). The Zimbabwean justice ministry drew on the ICRC's advice for its ongoing revision of the penal code.

### **The ZPCS strives to provide detainees with sufficient food**

Budgetary and logistical constraints and adverse climatic conditions (see *Context*) led to intermittent shortfalls of food and contributed to some detainees' becoming malnourished or ill (see below). The ZPCS, however, endeavoured to ensure the nutritional status of detainees, notably seeing to the efficient delivery of food it purchased to prisons countrywide, at times with ICRC-provided transportation or fuel. Detainees continued to supplement their diet with prison-farm produce, either fresh or previously preserved in prisons equipped with drying facilities. More than 18,000 detainees received rations, donated by the ICRC through the ZPCS, to help fill gaps in the food supply; groundnuts were included in these rations to help prevent pellagra, a vitamin-deficiency disease (see below).

The ZPCS sought to sustain longer-term measures to provide adequate food to all detainees. It cultivated around 228 hectares of land across various prison farms, using ICRC-donated seed, fertilizer and other agricultural supplies, and continued to streamline the management of these farms. ZPCS efforts resulted in a doubled harvest of cowpeas compared to 2015; other crops fared less well in the prevailing climate, particularly given inadequate irrigation systems. Inmates and ZPCS officers and prison-farm managers furthered their grasp of best farming practices during on-site training sessions with the ICRC. These managers discussed means to increase agricultural productivity, during peer exchanges and a workshop facilitated by the ICRC.

### **Malnourished detainees address their health status**

In Zimbabwe, detainees in all places of detention underwent periodic nutritional assessments – upon their arrival and every month thereafter – by ZPCS health workers. These workers' visits to prisons, which also constituted on-site training opportunities for them, were jointly made with the ICRC. Such systematic monitoring enabled the ZPCS to respond in a timely manner to cases of malnutrition, which decreased by year-end, despite a slight increase in the first half of 2016.

Over the course of the year, hundreds of detainees with severe acute malnutrition received therapeutic food, directly from the ICRC; and 4,690 detainees with moderate acute malnutrition obtained supplementary rations, through a programme of the ZPCS and the ICRC covering 25 prisons. Detainees afflicted with pellagra were temporarily enrolled in the programme towards alleviating their condition; the appropriate medicine was procured through the coordinated efforts of the ZPCS and the health ministry or, during shortages, provided by the ICRC. The health status of all these detainees was checked weekly.

Detainees continued to have access to health care at prison clinics – which used ICRC-donated medical essentials and office equipment/supplies – and, as necessary, were transferred to referral hospitals. Some detainees with mental health issues were released to the care of their families, partly because of the ICRC's financial support of social workers to regularly monitor the situation of these detainees and provide appropriate treatment.

### **Detainees have cleaner and more orderly surroundings**

A total of 7,400 detainees benefited from the maintenance of or improvements to water, sanitation, ventilation and other facilities, some ongoing, by the ZPCS and the ICRC. Support to biogas-energy systems at two prisons, and the construction of a similar system at another, facilitated the more sustainable use of resources. Such also helped improve sewage networks and, alongside upgrades to kitchens and kitchen equipment, expand cooking capacities. The installation of foot-powered pumps enabled untreated water to be used for irrigation, thus saving potable water. Renovations to the ZPCS national training centre foreshadowed more cost-efficient staff training. These initiatives, and the appointment of new maintenance personnel, were undertaken in line with the infrastructural operation and maintenance guidelines that the ZPCS had developed, with ICRC input.

By participating in ongoing projects to produce chlorine solution and cleaning materials, some inmates contributed to making their living conditions more sanitary. With a view to refining its protocol on delousing campaigns, drafted with ICRC support and approved by the health ministry, the ZPCS pilot-tested the protocol in one prison.

During a round-table series in ten provinces, ZPCS and ICRC representatives discussed an ICRC report on space allocation in selected prisons, towards identifying projects that the ZPCS construction unit could implement to boost the efficiency of such allocation, and thus contribute to alleviating overcrowding.

Several thousand detainees eased their confinement with the help of household essentials – such as blankets, food containers and clothes, including for winter – distributed by the ZPCS and the ICRC. The clothes were produced by the ZPCS using ICRC-donated fabric and knitting and sewing machines.

### **ACTORS OF INFLUENCE**

Throughout the region, the ICRC – at times with the National Societies – engaged the authorities, weapon bearers, members of the international community and civil society representatives, notably journalists, through dialogue, networking and events. Multi-format informational materials were also distributed to them. These efforts fostered acceptance for IHL and other pertinent norms, applicable standards, and the Movement; broadened awareness of humanitarian concerns; and helped facilitate activities for vulnerable people (see above).

### **Security personnel further their grasp of pertinent norms**

Before their deployment to field exercises or peace-support operations, some 1,600 members of armed forces from the countries covered underwent briefings – many conducted with the National Society concerned – on IHL, international human rights law and the Movement; they included Zambian troops assigned to a UN mission (see *Central African Republic*). The Southern African Development Community training centre in Zimbabwe and the ICRC, in line with a 2015 agreement, delivered courses on norms and standards pertinent to armed conflict and law enforcement, including arrest and detention; over 400 military and police officers from across the region thus better acquainted themselves with these. About 140 Namibian and Zimbabwean military students strengthened their grasp of IHL during sessions facilitated by the Zimbabwe Defence Forces and the ICRC. A senior Zambian military officer enhanced his insight into IHL during a workshop in Lucerne, Switzerland (see *International law and policy*).

The United States Africa Command drew on the ICRC's IHL advice for an international military exercise covering peace-support and disaster management operations, which took place in Malawi, in August.

### **Zambia ratifies the Arms Trade Treaty**

Government authorities increased their awareness of IHL during their ICRC-supported participation in events abroad (see *Pretoria*): a regional IHL course, attended by representatives from all the countries covered; and a round-table on nuclear disarmament, attended by Malawian and Zambian officials. Namibian parliamentarians advanced their understanding of IHL at dissemination sessions run by the National Society with ICRC input.

The national IHL committees of Malawi, Namibia, Zambia and Zimbabwe promoted the domestic implementation of IHL, with ICRC support. Members of the Zambian committee, many new to their positions, familiarized themselves with their roles and responsibilities during an ICRC workshop, held at their request; this contributed to facilitating the government's ratification of the Arms Trade Treaty. In Namibia, after a meeting of some southern African national IHL committees – co-hosted by the country's justice ministry and the ICRC – representatives of the Namibian committee enriched their knowledge of IHL during an ICRC seminar, also organized at their request. The Zimbabwean committee tackled the issue of protecting cultural property; the Malawian one was encouraged to become more active in its work. Committee members from the above-mentioned countries exchanged views with their peers at a meeting in Geneva, Switzerland (see *International law and policy*).

### **Future decision-makers increase their proficiency in IHL**

Academics from Zimbabwe joined a regional course (see *Pretoria*), with ICRC backing, enabling them to update their knowledge of IHL. Teams of students honed their proficiency in IHL during moot court competitions, in the country – organized by a local law association and the ICRC – and abroad, such as the Jean-Pictet Competition on IHL in France. In Zambia and Zimbabwe, over 300 students pursuing such courses as journalism, law, and political science learnt more about the legality and the humanitarian consequences of armed conflict during ICRC lectures at their universities.

Joint public-communication initiatives with the Zambia Red Cross helped broaden awareness of its role during emergencies. Newly appointed communication focal points of the Malawi Red Cross strengthened their capacities during a workshop, held with ICRC support.

### **RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT**

The National Societies in the region worked jointly with the ICRC and drew on its technical and financial support to develop strategic plans and bolster their capacities, including emergency response, in line with the Safer Access Framework (see also *Civilians and Actors of influence*). For instance, given bouts of violence (see *Context*): Zambia Red Cross personnel honed their first-aid skills, during workshops, and started applying recommendations from a National Society/ICRC post-election lessons-learnt exercise; and the Zimbabwe Red Cross updated its contingency plan to cover civil unrest and natural disaster.

Each National Society continued to reinforce its legal base and organizational structure, backed by the ICRC and other Movement partners. Malawian and Namibian National Society personnel



trained in financial management. Newly elected leaders of the National Societies in Malawi, Namibia and Zambia gained sharper insight into their duties, during a workshop. The Mozambican and Zambian National Societies each began drafting revisions to its constitution. The Namibia Red Cross, with Movement partners, finalized its new constitution and worked on proposals to amend the statute governing its legal status.

Periodic interaction between the National Societies, other Movement partners and the ICRC helped bolster coordination of activities.

MAIN FIGURES AND INDICATORS: PROTECTION		Total			
<b>CIVILIANS (residents, IDPs, returnees, etc.)</b>					
<b>RCMs and other means of family contact</b>			UAMs/SC		
RCMs collected		515	53		
RCMs distributed		377	15		
Phone calls facilitated between family members		145			
<b>Reunifications, transfers and repatriations</b>					
People reunited with their families		117			
	<i>including people registered by another delegation</i>	116			
<b>Tracing requests, including cases of missing persons</b>			Women	Girls	Boys
People for whom a tracing request was newly registered		315	56	90	85
	<i>including people for whom tracing requests were registered by another delegation</i>	262			
Tracing cases closed positively (subject located or fate established)		141			
	<i>including people for whom tracing requests were registered by another delegation</i>	129			
Tracing cases still being handled at the end of the reporting period (people)		517	92	157	134
	<i>including people for whom tracing requests were registered by another delegation</i>	364			
<b>Unaccompanied minors (UAMs) /separated children (SC), including demobilized child soldiers</b>			Girls		Demobilized children
UAMs/SC newly registered by the ICRC/National Society		32	13		
UAMs/SC reunited with their families by the ICRC/National Society		109	39		5
	<i>including UAMs/SC registered by another delegation</i>	108			
UAM/SC cases still being handled by the ICRC/National Society at the end of the reporting period		149	69		
<b>PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses)</b>					
<b>ICRC visits</b>			Women	Minors	
Detainees visited		15,035	319	29	
			Women	Girls	Boys
Detainees visited and monitored individually		89	6	1	12
Detainees newly registered		40	6	1	10
Number of visits carried out		48			
Number of places of detention visited		27			
<b>RCMs and other means of family contact</b>					
RCMs collected		10			
RCMs distributed		7			
Phone calls made to families to inform them of the whereabouts of a detained relative		129			
Detainees visited by their relatives with ICRC/National Society support		39			

MAIN FIGURES AND INDICATORS: ASSISTANCE		Total	Women	Children
<b>PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses)</b>				
<b>Economic security (in some cases provided within a protection programme)</b>				
Food commodities	Beneficiaries	18,031	286	
Essential household items	Beneficiaries	19,556	62	
Productive inputs	Beneficiaries	22,752	281	
Services and training	Beneficiaries	597		
<b>Water and habitat (in some cases provided within a protection or cooperation programme)</b>				
Water and habitat activities	Beneficiaries	7,400	296	74
<b>Health</b>				
Visits carried out by health staff		37		
Places of detention visited by health staff	Structures	25		