



harare (regional)

The Harare regional delegation has existed in its current form since 1981, although the ICRC has been present in some of the countries covered for much longer. It focuses on protecting and assisting civilians and visiting people deprived of their freedom in connection with political tensions. The delegation helps family members separated by armed conflict restore contact. It informs the authorities, the armed and security forces and the general public about IHL, human rights law and the ICRC's mandate, and helps the region's National Societies develop their operational capacities.

COVERING

Botswana, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Zambia, Zimbabwe

EXPENDITURE (IN KCHF)

Protection	1,549
Assistance	2,209
Prevention	992
Cooperation with National Societies	1,035
General	-

► **5,785**

of which: *Overheads 353*

IMPLEMENTATION RATE

Expenditure/yearly budget	87%
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PERSONNEL

11	expatriates
46	national staff (daily workers not included)

KEY POINTS

In 2007, the ICRC:

- ▶ commenced support to the Zimbabwe National Water Authority to improve the water supply for Harare residents
- ▶ distributed drugs and medical assistance to 16 health facilities in rural areas of Zimbabwe
- ▶ welcomed the release from administrative detention of all 16 detainees held in Botswana in connection with an uprising in the Caprivi Strip in 1999
- ▶ conducted activities to restore family links across the region, reuniting 19 unaccompanied children with their families in Zambia
- ▶ briefed some 1,300 young people on the ICRC and humanitarian principles during 5 visits to National Youth Service camps around Zimbabwe
- ▶ co-organized a workshop for senior military officers on the integration of IHL into training curricula with the Regional Peacekeeping Training Centre of the Southern African Development Community

CONTEXT

In Zimbabwe, life continued to get harder for much of the population as the country's political, economic and social situation worsened. Key services, such as health and water, were hit by funding gaps, hyperinflation and the drop-out of critical staff, and a poor harvest left the country once again facing a food shortfall.

February to May saw increased political tension and violence, with the arrest and alleged beating of members of the opposition, as well as the petrol bombing of public places. At the request of the Southern African Development Community (SADC), the South African president, Thabo Mbeki, facilitated talks between Zanu-PF and the opposition.

In September, the 18th constitutional amendment was passed by both houses, paving the way for joint parliamentary and presidential elections in 2008. During their party congress in December 2007, members of Zanu-PF confirmed President Robert Mugabe as their candidate for the elections. The opposition Movement for Democratic Change remained divided.

Provincial elections in Mozambique were postponed to allow more time for voter registration. The opposition Resistência Nacional Moçambicana (Renamo) was weakened by the defection of members to the ruling Frente de Libertação de Moçambique (Frelimo) party.

In Namibia, former president Sam Nujoma stepped down from active politics and a new opposition party, the Rally for Democracy and Progress, emerged from the ruling South West Africa People's Organization.

In Zambia, the question of constitutional reform and the pending trial of former president Frederick Chiluba on corruption charges dominated the country's political agenda.

Malawi prepared for presidential elections in 2008, while the country's agricultural sector produced a substantial surplus for export.

Botswana remained politically and economically stable, with Ian Khama, former head of the national army, set to succeed President Festus Mogae upon his planned resignation in March 2008.

CIVILIANS

Supporting civilians in Zimbabwe

A small number of victims of alleged political violence, mainly in Harare and Masvingo, received a one-off distribution of food and essential household items after assessment of their needs by the ICRC.

To improve access of rural populations to health care, 16 rural health facilities in Makoni, Chivi and Tsholotsho (in the provinces of Manicaland, Masvingo and Matabeleland North respectively) received medicines and consumables, and medical staff received training in subjects identified by the district health authorities. Children in the most remote areas of these districts were included in national immunization programmes thanks to ICRC logistical support.

Women attending maternity clinics in the three districts were provided with insecticide-treated mosquito nets with the aim of reducing malaria-related mother and child morbidity and mortality. Furthermore, 31 nurses were trained in malaria case management, including the use of new malaria drugs and the rapid diagnosis test.

In the 16 ICRC-supported health facilities in rural areas (catchment population: some 180,000):

- ▶ 178,468 people given consultations, including 17,216 attending ante/post-natal consultations and 161,252 attending curative consultations
- ▶ 58,495 vaccine doses administered (44,612 to children aged five or under and 7,597 to women of childbearing age), including 14,696 doses of polio vaccine
- ▶ 3,712 health education sessions conducted
- ▶ approximately 25,000 insecticide-treated mosquito nets distributed
- ▶ 122 nurses received training
- ▶ 800 people living with HIV received a one-off donation of food items
- ▶ 200 people living with HIV received essential household items

To ensure that health facilities had clean water in sufficient quantity to maintain adequate standards of health and hygiene, nine new boreholes were drilled and equipped with pressure pumps at clinics in the Chivi and Makoni districts, and existing pumps at clinics in Tsholotsho were rehabilitated. Ten clinics had their sanitation and waste-management facilities upgraded, with the construction of an incinerator, refuse pits and new latrines.

Rural communities were able to repair and maintain their water supply systems, thanks to the provision of spare parts and tools to local workshops belonging to the District Development Fund (Zimbabwe's rural water authority) in Chivi, Makoni and Tsholotsho districts.

A project got under way to support the Zimbabwe National Water Authority (ZINWA) in enhancing the quality and quantity of water available to residents of Harare and neighbouring towns. This involved the supply of laboratory equipment to the Morton Jaffray water treatment plant and assistance in building the capacity of the ZINWA workshop responsible for maintaining water mains and repairing leakages.

- ▶ 104,800 people benefited from water/sanitation projects

Restoring family links in the region

A number of countries in the region continued to host sizeable populations of refugees of a variety of nationalities. Refugees living in camps and elsewhere often restored or maintained contact with their families through the RCM service, provided by the ICRC in conjunction with the National Societies of the region and refugee volunteers.

Unaccompanied/separated minors and vulnerable adults and their dependants were assisted in locating their relatives and re-establishing contact with them and, where desired and feasible, were reunited with them. As many refugees came from countries outside the region covered by the Harare delegation, such as Angola and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, this often involved coordinating with other delegations and organizing the repatriation of such children and adults so that they could be reunited with family in their home countries.

- ▶ 8,116 RCMs collected from and 6,395 RCMs distributed to civilians, including 30 from and 1 to unaccompanied/separated children
- ▶ new tracing requests registered for 30 people (including 12 females and 16 minors at the time of disappearance), 1 in Namibia and 29 in Zimbabwe; 30 people located, 4 in Zambia and 26 in Zimbabwe; 200 people (including 32 females and 25 minors at the time of disappearance) still being sought, of whom 4 in Botswana, 37 in Namibia, 24 in Zambia and 135 in Zimbabwe
- ▶ 7 unaccompanied/separated children registered in Zambia; 20 reunited with their families, 19 in Zambia, 1 in Namibia; 67 cases of unaccompanied/separated children still being handled (6 in Botswana, 3 in Namibia, 53 in Zambia, 5 in Zimbabwe)
- ▶ 19 people issued with ICRC travel documents
- ▶ 200 children in an orphanage in Harare benefited from an ad hoc donation of food to their orphanage

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

Security detainees in Zambia continued to receive visits from ICRC delegates, who monitored their detention conditions and followed their cases individually. The overall prison situation remained highly problematic, with extreme overcrowding, inadequate infrastructure and poor living conditions.

The ICRC continued to call on the authorities to take the necessary action to improve conditions in Zambian prisons. Efforts to draw the attention of representatives of the international community to the situation showed an initial return when the European Union raised the matter with the Zambian prison service and the Ministry of Home Affairs.

Detainees in Botswana and Namibia arrested in connection with an uprising in the Caprivi Strip in 1999 were visited by ICRC delegates. Humanitarian concerns regarding the lengthy trial proceedings in Namibia and the prolonged detention in Botswana were repeatedly raised with the ministries concerned and the diplomatic community in both countries. Dialogue also continued with UNHCR in Geneva, Switzerland, regarding 16 of the Namibians held in Botswana. In December, all 16 were released from administrative detention and transferred to the Dukwi refugee camp in Botswana.

The families of 131 inmates of Namibia's Windhoek Central Prison visited their relatives twice with financial and organizational assistance from the ICRC and the Namibia Red Cross, and the 16 Namibian detainees in Francistown Centre for Illegal Immigrants in Botswana received visits from relatives living in Dukwi refugee camp. In both Botswana and Namibia, detainees were able to maintain contact with their families through stationery and stamps provided by the ICRC. A further 143 detainees received clothing and toiletries, while all the inmates of both places of detention received leisure items.

Talks with the Zimbabwean authorities to gain access to people held in police stations and prisons continued.

- in Botswana, 18 detainees visited and monitored individually during 3 visits to 1 place of detention
- in Namibia, 133 detainees visited and monitored individually during 4 visits to 2 places of detention; 10 RCMs collected from detainees
- in Zambia, 6 detainees visited and monitored individually during 6 visits to 3 places of detention

AUTHORITIES

Government representatives from Malawi, Namibia and Zimbabwe, the three countries in the region with national IHL committees, attended the Second Universal Meeting of National IHL Committees held in Geneva, Switzerland, which focused on legal measures and mechanisms to prevent disappearances, to clarify the fate of missing persons and to assist their families.

A draft decree to establish a national IHL committee in Mozambique was prepared.

In its capacity as chair of the interministerial sub-committee on IHL, Zimbabwe's Ministry of Defence organized a workshop in May to help prepare legislation on certain IHL and international human rights treaties in the run-up to the seventh annual regional seminar on the implementation of IHL, which was held in June in Pretoria. Botswana, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia and Zimbabwe were among the countries attending the seminar.

Dialogue and cooperation with the SADC Regional Peacekeeping Training Centre was pursued through IHL training courses and the participation of senior officers in the above-mentioned seminar.

In Malawi, a draft amended Geneva Conventions Act was presented for review to the State's legal adviser through the national IHL committee.

Regular dialogue was developed with senior representatives of the Namibian authorities.

ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

The ICRC prioritized working with regional bodies and high-level training institutions that could have an impact on the implementation of IHL in military doctrine, training and operating procedures across the entire region.

Fourteen senior officers responsible for the training of the armed forces in 10 SADC countries discussed the integration of IHL into training curricula at a workshop co-organized by the ICRC and SADC. The event was held at the Regional Peacekeeping Training Centre in Zimbabwe and was attended by the country's minister of defence and some of its highest-ranking military officers. The centre subsequently invited the ICRC to give a presentation on IHL integration to members of the SADC Brigade.

IHL training events were held for:

- 173 officers attending courses at the Zimbabwe Staff College, mostly from the Zimbabwe National Army, but also officers from the Zimbabwe Prison Service, the Zimbabwe Republic Police, and the armed or security forces of other SADC countries
- Air Force of Zimbabwe officers attending the Officers Command Course and the Junior Staff Course
- 16 legal advisers from the Zimbabwe Ministry of Defence
- non-commissioned officers at the artillery school in Kwe Kwe, Zimbabwe

In Namibia, senior prison officers participated in a workshop on human rights and humanitarian principles.

Some 50 Zimbabwean police officers were briefed on the ICRC and its operations in Rusape and Tsholotsho districts.

CIVIL SOCIETY

In Zimbabwe, journalism students at the National University of Science and Technology in Bulawayo attended a session on IHL and the ICRC in May. Cooperation with the law faculties of the University of Zimbabwe (Harare) and Midlands State University (Gweru) was maintained and IHL lectures given. A University of Zimbabwe team won the national IHL moot court competition and went on to win the pan-African competition in Arusha, Tanzania. Students at Zambia's National Institute of Public Administration participated in a month-long IHL module, to which the ICRC contributed.

About 1,300 young people learned about the ICRC and humanitarian principles during five visits by the ICRC to National Youth Service camps around Zimbabwe. Contact was maintained with the National Youth Service administration.

RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT

The National Societies of the countries covered by the delegation continued to receive technical and practical support to build their operational capacities, to improve coordination and to strengthen their programmes to respond to emergencies, restore family links and raise awareness of IHL and the Fundamental Principles.

Ensuring effective tracing services

The Botswana Red Cross Society continued to provide services for refugees in the Dukwi camp, and the Malawi Red Cross Society pursued similar programmes in the Dzaleka and Luwani camps (until the latter's closure).

Staff from National Societies in Botswana, Mozambique and Zambia participated in training sessions on tracing, and a Zimbabwe Red Cross tracing officer joined an ICRC mission to Zimbabwe's Tongogara refugee camp in December.

In Botswana and Namibia, the National Societies helped arrange family visits to detainees held in connection with the uprising in the Caprivi Strip (see *People deprived of their freedom*).

Enhancing disaster preparedness and response

Some 200 Red Cross staff and volunteers learned about the Safer Access approach, first aid in conflict, the Fundamental Principles, and the Seville Agreement and its Supplementary Measures during 12 training sessions organized by the National Societies themselves or by the International Federation, with the participation and technical support of the ICRC.

The Malawi and Mozambique Red Cross Societies were both instrumental in the delivery of relief to thousands of people affected by floods in their countries.

- ▶ 3,000 flood victims in Zimbabwe received essential household items through a donation by the ICRC to the National Society

Promoting IHL and the Fundamental Principles

- ▶ 60 branch volunteers and 30 school principals and teachers attended dissemination sessions in Botswana
- ▶ 26 volunteers from Red Cross youth clubs in Malawi attended training sessions on the Movement and the management of activities in schools
- ▶ 16 Malawi Red Cross volunteers participated in a workshop on dissemination techniques
- ▶ representatives of the Zimbabwe Red Cross governance and management and branch personnel attended 2 dissemination sessions
- ▶ 6 National Society staff members participated in an annual meeting of legal advisers in Switzerland
- ▶ World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day (8 May) marked by the region's National Societies with a variety of events, attracting media coverage and raising the profile of Movement activities

Movement cooperation

The delegation continued to coordinate its activities with the National Societies of the region, partner National Societies and the International Federation. Together with the International Federation, the ICRC helped National Societies review their statutes to ensure consistency with Movement standards and organize induction training for new board members. The delegation supported the implementation of workplace HIV/AIDS programmes.