

PRETORIA (regional)

COVERING: Angola, Lesotho, Madagascar, Mozambique, South Africa, Swaziland



EXPENDITURE (IN KCHF)

Protection	943
Assistance	46
Prevention	1,810
Cooperation with National Societies	1,808
General	-

► **4,607**

of which: Overheads 281

IMPLEMENTATION RATE

Expenditure/yearly budget	107%
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PERSONNEL

Expatriates	10
National staff (daily workers not included)	37

KEY POINTS

In 2010, the ICRC:

- organized 2 major events for government representatives from across Africa to exchange expertise on IHL implementation
- reinforced the National Societies' capacities to respond to needs created by political protests and social demonstrations
- continued visiting inmates in Angola, Lesotho and Madagascar, while working with the detaining authorities in Madagascar to improve detainees' living conditions
- handed over historic records of ICRC visits to detainees in South Africa to the country's Robben Island Museum

The ICRC opened a regional delegation in Pretoria in 1978. It keeps a close eye on the domestic situation in the countries covered and helps refugees and asylum seekers restore family links severed by armed conflict and other situations of violence. It promotes ratification of IHL treaties and their national implementation and encourages the incorporation of IHL into military and police training and into secondary school and university curricula. The ICRC supports the region's National Societies, in cooperation with the International Federation. It also visits detainees in Angola, Lesotho and Madagascar.

CONTEXT

South Africa maintained its political and economic influence within the region, engaging in diplomacy, providing troops for peacekeeping operations abroad and hosting the 2010 football World Cup. On the domestic front, protests and strikes over job losses, income inequality and poor delivery of public services sometimes turned violent, with foreigners working in the country occasionally coming under attack during the unrest.

Madagascar's political stalemate had not been resolved, hampering the economy and worsening the country's already chronic poverty. In November, a group of military officers attempted a coup while citizens went to the polls to approve a new constitution. The officers turned themselves in a few days later. Presidential elections were scheduled to take place in 2011.

Riots broke out in Mozambique's capital in September after a jump in the price of food, water and electricity. Following an emergency

cabinet meeting, the government announced plans to reverse and stabilize the rising prices.

In Angola, an attack on the Togolese soccer team during the Africa Cup of Nations in January, claimed by a branch of the Front for the Liberation of the Enclave of Cabinda, illustrated that the situation in the oil-rich enclave remained volatile.

Swaziland's fragile political situation was tested during rallies organized by opposition movements calling for multi-party democracy. Demonstrators reportedly continued to be arrested but quickly released.

In Lesotho, in view of the disputed 2007 elections, all parties agreed to postpone local elections scheduled for 2010 until electoral reforms were adopted.

Following the 2009 global financial crisis, the economy continued to be the main preoccupation in the region.

MAIN FIGURES AND INDICATORS

PROTECTION

CIVILIANS (residents, IDPs, returnees, etc.)			
Red Cross messages	Total	UAMs/SCs*	
RCMs collected	427		
RCMs distributed	436		
Phone calls facilitated between family members	3		
Tracing requests, including cases of missing persons	Total	Women	Minors
People for whom a tracing request was newly registered	5	1	
Tracing cases still being handled at 31 December 2010 (people)	88	14	36
Documents			
People to whom travel documents were issued	179		
PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses) ¹			
ICRC visits	Total	Women	Minors
Detainees visited	595		
Detainees visited and monitored individually	102	3	
Detainees newly registered	79	3	
Number of visits carried out	36		
Number of places of detention visited	13		
Restoring family links	Total		
People to whom a detention attestation was issued	1		

* Unaccompanied minors/separated children

1. Angola, Lesotho and Madagascar

ASSISTANCE

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses) ²				
Economic security, water and habitat		Total	Women	Children
Food	Beneficiaries	494		
Water and habitat activities	Beneficiaries	1,399		

2. Madagascar only

ICRC ACTION AND RESULTS

The Pretoria regional delegation focused on promoting humanitarian principles and reinforcing the ICRC's standing as a reference on IHL for political and military authorities and other influential actors.

Thus, the ICRC strengthened contacts with national and international political authorities, regularly updating them on the Movement's activities and humanitarian concerns during workshops and bilateral meetings. During two major events in Pretoria, government representatives discussed ratifying IHL treaties, notably the Convention on Cluster Munitions and the African Union (AU) Convention on IDPs. Meanwhile, the region's IHL committees drew on ICRC technical advice to implement IHL treaties domestically, for example during a meeting in Geneva, Switzerland on the need for legislation to repress war crimes.

To increase understanding of and support for IHL and the Movement among the region's armed and security forces, delegates conducted presentations and briefings for personnel from throughout the ranks. Among those attending such presentations were South African National Defence Force (SANDF) troops and students attending a Southern African Development Community (SADC) pilot military training exercise. Officers were in a better position to integrate IHL norms into military doctrine, training and operations following a one-week workshop.

Similarly, the ICRC reached out to a wide range of civil society actors in the region, including journalists, members of think-tanks and academics. The delegation continued to support IHL teaching in the region's universities, including by sponsoring students to participate in competitions abroad and by organizing a course for students and lecturers.

Delegates visited people detained for security reasons in Angola's Cabinda province, in Lesotho and in Madagascar, monitored their treatment and living conditions and provided the authorities with confidential feedback and, where relevant, recommendations. In Madagascar, the delegation continued to support the authorities in their efforts to bring detention conditions in line with internationally recognized standards, for example by conducting a seminar for prison administration officials and NGOs on ways to improve prison hygiene. Meanwhile, detainees in three Malagasy detention centres benefited from rehabilitated water and sanitation facilities. In Swaziland, the delegation intensified its dialogue with the authorities with a view to gaining access to detainees in the country.

The ICRC continued to provide material, financial and technical support to help the region's National Societies respond effectively to emergencies and reconnect refugees and asylum seekers with their families. Training in first aid and the Safer Access approach proved essential for volunteers regionwide to assist people injured during protests and demonstrations. The delegation also helped the National Societies continue developing their family-links services, notably during a five-day workshop in Malawi.

The ICRC and other Movement partners worked to strengthen their coordination mechanisms, notably with the International Federation's new Africa headquarters in Johannesburg.

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

Detainees held in places of detention in Angola, Lesotho and Madagascar received visits, conducted in accordance with the ICRC's standard procedures, enabling delegates to monitor their treatment and living conditions. Those monitored individually were mainly security detainees, including people detained in Angola's Cabinda province in connection with the attack on the Togolese football team and officers arrested in Madagascar following the attempted coup (see *Context*). After the visits, the authorities were given confidential oral and written feedback on the delegates' findings, along with recommendations, where relevant. In Swaziland, based on an offer of services made to the detaining authorities in 2009, the ICRC pursued efforts to conclude an agreement granting the delegation access to detainees in the country.

In Madagascar, the authorities and the ICRC continued to work to improve detainees' living conditions, enhance respect for their judicial guarantees and address overcrowding in prisons. Some 490 detainees in two prisons with high malnutrition rates supplemented their diets with high-energy biscuits. Inmates in three detention facilities faced fewer health risks thanks to ongoing projects to rehabilitate water and sanitation infrastructure. Meanwhile, prison administration officials and NGO staff explored practical measures to improve general prison hygiene at an ICRC seminar. In agreement with the authorities, international donors were kept informed about the situation in Malagasy prisons. Other actors providing prison services in the country and the delegation also coordinated their activities to avoid duplication.

In South Africa, the Robben Island Museum received the first set of detention reports based on ICRC visits carried out in 1963–64. Twenty former detainees, who had since joined political parties, attended the handover ceremony, generating discussions on past and contemporary issues surrounding detention.

Families in South Africa stayed in contact with people held in the US internment facility at Guantanamo Bay Naval Station in Cuba through regular videoconference calls (see *Washington*). Others exchanged news with relatives detained abroad by means of RCMs after being informed of their detention by an ICRC phone call.

AUTHORITIES

In Pretoria, members of the diplomatic community, government officials and representatives of regional/international organizations, such as the AU, SADC and the UN, kept abreast of the Movement's humanitarian concerns and activities during briefings and workshops. For example, members of the Pan-African Parliament's Gender Committee learnt about the ICRC's work addressing the specific dangers faced by women in armed conflict.

The South African government hosted the 10th regional IHL seminar, during which officials from 15 African countries, including Lesotho, Madagascar, Mozambique and Swaziland, discussed the ratification and implementation of IHL treaties, such as the AU Convention on IDPs. Additionally, representatives of 30 African States, including all those covered by the Pretoria delegation, exchanged expertise at the Africa Regional Conference on the Universalization and Implementation of the Convention on Cluster Munitions.

Such events contributed to encouraging results. With technical support, Lesotho ratified the Convention on Cluster Munitions and made the optional declaration under Article 90 of 1977 Additional Protocol I recognizing the competence of the International Fact-Finding Commission. Mozambique signed the AU Convention on IDPs, and 50 Mozambican officials discussed its ratification at a workshop co-hosted with the Foreign Affairs Ministry.

In parallel, the region's IHL committees received ICRC technical advice and materials to implement IHL treaties domestically. South Africa's IHL committee completed a draft bill implementing provisions of the 1949 Geneva Conventions, which was submitted to parliament. Representatives of the IHL committees in Lesotho and South Africa examined the need for effective national legislation repressing war crimes during the third Universal Meeting of National IHL Committees held in Geneva, Switzerland (see *International Law and Cooperation*). Madagascar's IHL committee, which was unable to meet in 2009 owing to the political crisis, regrouped and set priorities for the months ahead.

The African Peer Review Mechanism received ICRC input on including references to IHL in a questionnaire designed to help governments self-assess their compliance with African and international treaties.

ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

Regionwide, members of the armed and security forces participated in briefings and presentations aiming to enhance their understanding of humanitarian principles and garner their support for the Movement's neutral, impartial and independent humanitarian action. Among those attending such presentations were students and instructors attending a SADC pilot military training exercise, SANDF troops destined for peacekeeping operations abroad, and Malagasy military cadets. In Angola, the delegation was invited as an observer during the "Kwanza"

military training exercise for armed and police forces of the Economic Community of Central African States. Plans to foster dialogue on IHL with private military and security companies based in South Africa were postponed.

The region's armed forces received technical support to integrate IHL norms into military doctrine, training and operations, for example during a one-week workshop at the SADC Regional Peacekeeping Training Centre in Zimbabwe (see *Harare*). In Madagascar, the new president of the Defence Ministry's IHL committee and the ICRC discussed the next steps towards integrating IHL into military training. At year-end, SANDF authorities were staffing and training two new bodies charged with IHL integration.

Police officers from throughout the ranks in Lesotho, Madagascar and Swaziland were briefed on basic humanitarian principles during two training sessions.

CIVIL SOCIETY

Press, radio and television networks enhanced their coverage of humanitarian issues and Movement activities in Africa with the help of ICRC interviews and press releases. Journalists and staff of influential think-tanks and NGOs exchanged expertise with the ICRC during various events, including a media networking forum and a conference on the Convention on Cluster Munitions 48 hours before its entry into force.

Law faculties in 14 universities in Lesotho, South Africa and Swaziland continued teaching IHL, aided by the ICRC. With financial support, the 2010 edition of the *African Yearbook on International Humanitarian Law* was published, and students tested their skills during two IHL competitions abroad. University lecturers and postgraduate students from 17 countries sharpened their skills during the 9th All-Africa Course on IHL, and health professionals familiarized themselves with the protection afforded to civilians and medical staff under IHL during the H.E.L.P. (Health Emergencies in Large Populations) course. Both events were organized with the University of Pretoria. Given the abundance of IHL reference materials in South Africa's academic institutions, the delegation's documentation centre was no longer needed, and closed.

At a regional seminar in Pretoria, education representatives explored ways to teach the Exploring Humanitarian Law programme in secondary schools.

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM	ANGOLA	LESOTHO	MADAGASCAR
ICRC visits			
Detainees visited	32	3	560
Detainees visited and monitored individually	27	3	72
			<i>of whom women</i>
			3
Detainees newly registered	9		70
			<i>of whom women</i>
			3
Number of visits carried out	3	1	32
Number of places of detention visited	1	1	11
Restoring family links			
People to whom a detention attestation was issued		1	

RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT

With ICRC training and material, financial and technical support, the region's National Societies continued to develop their capacities to respond to emergencies, restore family links and promote IHL and the Movement.

Training in first aid and the Safer Access approach proved vital for personnel regionwide to assist people injured during political protests and social demonstrations (see *Context*). In South Africa, volunteers deployed to key medical facilities during public service strikes ensured that people received treatment. The National Society also developed a new emergency preparedness strategy and, in coordination with the Movement, assisted those affected by urban violence in settlements. Several of the region's National Societies developed a new project, dubbed "Ubuntu", to address discrimination against foreigners and assist those affected by it.

In Lesotho, South Africa and Swaziland, the National Societies developed their services helping refugees and asylum seekers in the region to reconnect with their families. Personnel from across the region examined ways to strengthen the family-links network during a five-day regional workshop in Malawi (see *Harare*). At the request of various embassies and UNHCR, over 179 refugees and asylum seekers resettled abroad upon receipt of travel documents issued by the ICRC.

Volunteers bolstered their capacities to increase public understanding of IHL and the Movement during training sessions in their respective countries and abroad. Swaziland's National Society also held a series of meetings with the authorities and opposition groups to improve understanding of and garner support for the Movement. In South Africa, the National Society continued developing a football-based project to curb youth violence.

Movement components met regularly to coordinate their activities.