

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 throughout the region, working closely with Zimbabwe's authorities to improve detainees' conditions. Also in Zimbabwe, it assists the country's Mine Action Centre in strengthening its capacities. Throughout the region, it helps refugees and relatives separated by armed conflict/other situations of violence 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 2014:

- ▶ in Zimbabwe, over 70% more detainees than in 2013 enriched their meals with vegetables and other staples produced in prison farms, with the malnourished regaining weight via therapeutic feeding programmes
- ▶ detainees in Zimbabwe and people held for security reasons in Namibia received visits from the ICRC, with some availing themselves of family-links services to maintain contact with their families
- ▶ Zimbabwe passed a bill prohibiting the use of biological agents and toxic gases as weapons, and requested an extension to its deadline for completing its demining obligations under an international treaty
- ▶ the Mozambique Red Cross Society – despite an internal crisis – and other National Societies in the region provided assistance/ family-links services to people affected by violence

EXPENDITURE (in KCHF)	
Protection	1,248
Assistance	3,379
Prevention	1,482
Cooperation with National Societies	1,066
General	-
	7,176

of which: Overheads 438

IMPLEMENTATION RATE	
Expenditure/yearly budget	101%

PERSONNEL	
Mobile staff	9
Resident staff (daily workers not included)	72

YEARLY RESULTS

Level of achievement of ICRC yearly objectives/plans of action **HIGH**

PROTECTION	Total
CIVILIANS (residents, IDPs, returnees, etc.)	
Red Cross messages (RCMs)	
RCMs collected	266
RCMs distributed	186
Phone calls facilitated between family members	2
People located (tracing cases closed positively)	14
PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses)	
ICRC visits	
Detainees visited	16,736
Detainees visited and monitored individually	70
Number of visits carried out	55
Number of places of detention visited	30
Restoring family links	
Phone calls made to families to inform them of the whereabouts of a detained relative	28

ASSISTANCE	2014 Targets (up to)	Achieved
CIVILIANS (residents, IDPs, returnees, etc.)		
Economic security, water and habitat		
(in some cases provided within a protection or cooperation programme)		
Essential household items ¹	Beneficiaries	
Water and habitat activities	Beneficiaries	582

1. Owing to operational and management constraints, figures presented in this table may not reflect all activities carried out during the reporting period.

CONTEXT

The region remained generally calm, with the exception of Mozambique where tensions and skirmishes between the government and the Mozambican National Resistance (RENAMO) continued despite ongoing negotiations. Confrontations – which caused some casualties and displacement, and hampered access to public services – stopped after a cease-fire agreement in August. Contested election results revived tensions in October.

Economic constraints continued to affect Zimbabwe's employment rate and the government's ability to provide adequate services, including within the penitentiary system. Elections in Malawi and Namibia proceeded peacefully.

The region continued to host thousands of refugees, for example from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (hereafter DRC); most of them found shelter in UNHCR camps.

ICRC ACTION AND RESULTS

The ICRC worked with the authorities and National Societies throughout the region to meet the needs of vulnerable people. As a matter of priority, the ICRC visited detainees in Zimbabwean prisons and some police stations, and in Namibia, people held in relation to the 1999 Caprivi Strip uprising. Following visits, the detaining authorities received the ICRC's confidential feedback and technical input, helping them improve detainee treatment and living conditions. By year's end, following a revision of the progress of its detention-related activities, the ICRC decided to no longer visit detainees in the custody of the police forces.

The Zimbabwe Prison and Correctional Service (ZPCS) drew on technical expertise as well as direct support from the ICRC to enhance penitentiary services and overcome budgetary constraints linked to the economic situation. Detainees supplemented and varied their diets with fresh or dried vegetables from ICRC-supported prison farms, and with food rations delivered with logistical assistance from the ICRC. Inmates who remained malnourished or who were sick were diagnosed during regular health checks; subsequently, they received treatment from the Health Ministry and the ZPCS, and/or from prison clinics regularly supplied with medicines by the ICRC and other actors. Upgrades to infrastructure and distribution of hygiene items and essentials, such as blankets and clothes, improved living conditions – hygiene, for instance – for people held in prisons and police stations.

Members of families dispersed by armed conflict in the wider region, detention or migration restored/maintained contact through family-links services provided by the ICRC and National Societies. In Mozambique, people displaced by violence met their urgent needs and set up shelters with help from the Mozambique Red Cross Society.

To mitigate the consequences of weapon contamination, the ICRC maintained its support to the Zimbabwe Mine Action Centre (ZIMAC), and helped it to bolster its capacities to manage the national mine-action programme. Together, the ICRC and ZIMAC enhanced local demining operations, trained demining instructors in the proper disposal of mines/explosive remnants of war (ERW) and facilitated mine-risk education activities for communities affected by weapon contamination.

The ICRC maintained relations with the authorities and members of civil society throughout the region, primarily through bilateral

dialogue, dissemination sessions and regional events, such as the Third Review Conference of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention. In Mozambique, government officials, RENAMO representatives and the ICRC discussed the need to respect civilians during hostilities and to allow humanitarian assistance/medical services to reach the people affected. Zimbabwe passed a bill implementing the Biological Weapons Convention and a 1925 international protocol restricting the use of toxic gases as a weapon.

Movement partners continued to meet regularly to coordinate their activities.

CIVILIANS

ZIMAC's efforts minimize the impact of mines/ERW for thousands of people

Local demining bodies continued, with ICRC support, to implement the National Mine Action Standards, in compliance with international norms.

ZIMAC built up its capacity to manage the national mine-action programme, and developed a joint support strategy with the Zimbabwean government and the ICRC, pursuant to a 2012 cooperation agreement that was extended to the end of 2014. Through ICRC-organized workshops, dozens of ZIMAC staff members honed their skills, for example in assuring the quality of services, conducting risk-education sessions and managing information. Ten people became qualified to train others in demining after attending a course in the proper clearance and disposal of mines/ERW. Although still located within military premises, the centre's mine-clearance unit benefited from donations of basic equipment.

Aided by ICRC expertise, ZIMAC drew up a plan of action to enhance its demining operations along the border with Mozambique. However, a cooperation agreement on cross-border demining – drafted by the Mozambican and Zimbabwean authorities with ICRC support – had not yet been finalized. In the meantime, over 5,300 children and other residents of communities along Zimbabwe's north-eastern border with Mozambique learnt to reduce their exposure to mines/ERW in the area following risk-education sessions and the distribution of information material.

Dialogue and information sessions, including during a conference on anti-personnel mines in Mozambique, helped raise support for ZIMAC (see *Actors of influence*). At a conference abroad (see *African Union*), Zimbabwean officials learnt more about assisting mine-affected people.

IDPs in Mozambique cover their basic needs with help from the National Society/ICRC

In light of the ongoing tensions in Mozambique (see *Context*), government officials, RENAMO representatives and the ICRC discussed the need to protect civilians and to secure access for humanitarian workers/medical personnel to people affected.

Approximately 600 IDPs (130 households) met their daily needs with household essentials, including energy-saving stoves and charcoal, provided by the Mozambican Red Cross, with ICRC support. Health campaigns and the renovation of a borehole by trained National Society technicians and/or volunteers helped displaced people maintain their health. In October, IDP households moved from tents into traditional mud houses built with National Society/ICRC support, and had better shelter during the rainy season. These

activities were carried out despite an internal crisis at the National Society (see *Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement*).

Members of dispersed families exchange news through the regional family-links network

Families separated by armed conflict, detention or other circumstances – particularly IDPs, migrants and refugees – restored/maintained contact through RCMs and other means. The Zimbabwe Red Cross Society extended family-links services to people attending public events – which resulted in 50 children rejoining their families within a day of being separated from them – and the Malawi Red Cross Society provided tracing/ first-aid services at rallies and at over 100 polling stations during the campaign/electoral period. These activities also increased public awareness of the National Societies. The Zambia Red Cross Society began to take over family-links activities at the Meheba refugee camp.

The region's National Societies enhanced family-links services with ICRC material/technical support: for example, support was provided for assessing the needs of refugees at camps in Malawi, Namibia, Zambia and Zimbabwe. During a regional workshop in Zimbabwe, representatives of seven southern African National Societies exchanged best practices in coordinating activities and restoring family links during emergencies, thereby strengthening the regional family-links network. Owing to other priorities, training in human remains management for the Malawian and Mozambican National Societies, though planned, did not take place.

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

Over 16,600 people held by the ZPCS and the police received visits from the ICRC. Afterwards, the detaining authorities received the ICRC's confidential feedback and recommendations with a view to improving detainee treatment and living conditions: for example, discussions between the ICRC and the authorities contributed to 166 mentally ill inmates being discharged and returning to their families. By year's end, following a revision of the progress of its

detention-related activities, the ICRC decided to no longer visit detainees in the custody of the police forces.

Some detainees visited, notably foreigners, made use of family-links services to stay in touch with their families in Zimbabwe or abroad: 28 foreign detainees returned home with support from their families.

70% more detainees in Zimbabwe supplement their diet with vegetables from prison farms

The ZPCS drew on the ICRC's technical expertise to improve prison services and work around budgetary constraints: for example, it produced a manual of guidelines for managing prison infrastructure and making the best use of available resources. During ICRC-sponsored workshops, some 100 prison directors, farm managers and nurses discussed how to meet the annual food requirements of detainees, while health staff learnt more about diagnosing and treating malnutrition. Two prison officials honed their prison-management skills at an advanced course in Geneva, Switzerland.

Prison farms boosted their yields with ICRC-supplied seed/fertilizer/equipment; recommendations from an ICRC-supported economic study completed in 2013 were also used to this end. More than 17,000 detainees, 70% more than in 2013, improved their diet – both its quantity and its quality – with vegetables and other staples; produce was available throughout the year, and consumed fresh or dried. However, full daily rations could still not be guaranteed for the whole of 2014 given the limited resources of public services. Detainees thus further supplemented their diet with food items provided by the ICRC.

In most of the prisons visited by the ICRC, detainees who were sick or malnourished were diagnosed on their arrival and, afterwards, examined on a monthly basis. The Health Ministry took charge of the severely malnourished; moderately malnourished inmates – over 1,550 in 26 prisons – regained weight through ZPCS/ICRC supplementary feeding programmes. Sick detainees

CIVILIANS	MALAWI	MOZAMBIQUE	NAMIBIA	ZAMBIA	ZIMBABWE
Red Cross messages (RCMs)					
RCMs collected			107		159
					<i>including from UAMs/SCs*</i> 12
RCMs distributed			58		128
Phone calls facilitated between family members			2		
Tracing requests, including cases of missing persons					
People for whom a tracing request was newly registered	18		20	6	34
					<i>of whom women</i> 7
					<i>of whom minors at the time of disappearance - girls</i> 2
					<i>of whom minors at the time of disappearance - boys</i> 1
					<i>including people for whom tracing requests were registered by another delegation</i> 6
People located (tracing cases closed positively)	10			3	1
					<i>including people for whom tracing requests were registered by another delegation</i> 1
Tracing cases still being handled at the end of the reporting period (people)	24	2	21	24	25
					<i>of whom women</i> 11
					<i>of whom minors at the time of disappearance - girls</i> 4
					<i>of whom minors at the time of disappearance - boys</i> 4
					<i>including people for whom tracing requests were registered by another delegation</i> 2
UAMs/SCs*, including unaccompanied demobilized child soldiers					
UAMs/SCs newly registered by the ICRC/National Society	3		6		13
					<i>of whom girls</i> 2
UAM/SC cases still being handled at the end of the reporting period	40		6	4	53
					<i>of whom girls</i> 21
Documents					
People to whom travel documents were issued					1

* Unaccompanied minors/separated children

recovered their health through care at prison clinics regularly supplied with medicines by the National Pharmaceutical Company of Zimbabwe up to mid-year, UNICEF and the ICRC. Good coordination between all parties concerned, and provision of health care in accordance with national guidelines, helped keep mortality levels low.

In prisons and police stations, almost 17,400 detainees improved their living conditions and reduced their exposure to health risks, using ICRC-provided hygiene items and household essentials such as blankets and clothing and, in nine prisons, clean water from upgraded infrastructure. Some inmates also made use of recreational materials donated by the ICRC.

In main prisons, prison farms and satellite sites, inmates consumed food prepared in 45 rehabilitated kitchens that had enhanced cooking capacities and sanitary conditions. Plans to refurbish prison farms' irrigation systems were put on hold to carry out the abovementioned upgrades.

Security detainees in Namibia keep in touch with relatives

In Namibia, 77 people arrested in connection with the 1999 Caprivi Strip uprising were visited by the ICRC according to its standard procedures. Twice a year, these people spent time with their relatives during visits facilitated by the Namibia Red Cross/ICRC. With ICRC input, confidential feedback and other support, the authorities worked on improving detainee treatment and living conditions. After their release, over 40 security detainees were given the opportunity to make use of agricultural equipment/training provided by the National Society/ICRC, and speed up their social reintegration.

ACTORS OF INFLUENCE

Over 1,200 troops and penitentiary staff across the region further their understanding of IHL

Military officers throughout the region added to their knowledge of IHL through information sessions, including some conducted during military exercises. Some 850 Malawian troops deploying to the DRC, and nearly 100 prison officers studying at the South African Development Community (SADC) Regional Peacekeeping Training Centre in Zimbabwe, learnt more about IHL norms applicable to peacekeeping.

During their annual general meeting, the SADC's military health services committee received technical advice from the ICRC, in connection with developing and implementing policies for making health personnel, facilities and equipment safer during armed conflict.

Zimbabwe passes bill prohibiting the use of biological agents and toxic gases as weapons of war

The region's authorities continued to draw on the ICRC's technical expertise to advance IHL ratification/implementation: for example, representatives of the Namibian and Zimbabwean IHL committees and their counterparts in other countries shared good practices and discussed opportunities for cooperation during a meeting in South Africa (see *Pretoria*). At an ICRC-supported workshop, some 20 Zimbabwean parliamentarians worked on drafting legislation implementing the Biological Weapons Convention and a 1925 international protocol restricting the use of toxic gases as a weapon: the bill was passed within the year. Zimbabwe also made use of ICRC technical expertise for requesting an extension to the deadline for its demining obligations under the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention.

Mozambique hosted the Third Review Conference of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention, at which hundreds of high-level representatives of States and humanitarian organizations – including the ICRC's vice-president – discussed progress in implementation and good practices in overcoming related obstacles. Participants were made more aware of the continuing impact of mines and ERW on people by an ICRC-organized photo gallery and by live testimony from survivors and landmine laying personnel.

At an annual conference on penitentiary affairs in Namibia, ICRC officials, including the president, informed participants of the ICRC's activities for detainees.

Students across the region become more aware of the importance of IHL in their future careers

Through dialogue, dissemination activities conducted with National Societies and regional IHL training events (see, for example, *Pretoria*), national authorities and members of civil society learnt more about, and were encouraged to support, IHL and the Movement's neutral, impartial and independent activities. Over 175 students of law, international relations, media and medicine in Mozambique, Zambia and Zimbabwe furthered their understanding of IHL and its relevance to their careers. Zimbabwean law students demonstrated their grasp of IHL at national and international competitions: the University of Zimbabwe placed second in a regional moot court competition. The University of Malawi included IHL in its syllabus for international law.

The region's National Societies, through their ICRC-trained communication staff, pursued efforts to raise acceptance for the Movement and encourage volunteerism among the general public.

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM	NAMIBIA	ZIMBABWE
ICRC visits		
Detainees visited	77	16,659
		<i>of whom women</i>
		421
		<i>of whom minors</i>
		72
Detainees visited and monitored individually	70	
Number of visits carried out	1	54
Number of places of detention visited	1	29
Restoring family links		
Phone calls made to families to inform them of the whereabouts of a detained relative		28
Detainees visited by their relatives with ICRC/National Society support	74	

RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT

The region's National Societies drew on ICRC support to enhance their capacities and apply the Safer Access Framework; they conducted joint activities with the ICRC (see *Civilians and Actors of influence*), and prepared and responded to emergencies, including in relation to elections.

With support from the Movement, National Societies also strengthened their legal bases and organizational structure, and tackled issues such as the high turnover of staff. The Mozambican

Red Cross elected an interim executive team after it dismissed senior staff for alleged financial mismanagement. Legal advisers from the Malawian and Zimbabwean National Societies participated in an annual meeting in Switzerland. The Namibia Red Cross reviewed the country's Red Cross Act, with a view to proposing amendments to parliament.

Regular dialogue and regional meetings (see also *Pretoria*) strengthened coordination among the region's National Societies; they also helped prevent duplication and address unmet needs.

MAIN FIGURES AND INDICATORS: PROTECTION		Total			
CIVILIANS (residents, IDPs, returnees, etc.)					
Red Cross messages (RCMs)			UAMs/SCs*		
RCMs collected		266	12		
RCMs distributed		186			
Phone calls facilitated between family members		2			
Tracing requests, including cases of missing persons			Women	Girls	Boys
People for whom a tracing request was newly registered		78	18	18	14
	<i>including people for whom tracing requests were registered by another delegation</i>	6			
People located (tracing cases closed positively)		14			
	<i>including people for whom tracing requests were registered by another delegation</i>	1			
Tracing cases still being handled at the end of the reporting period (people)		96	21	20	13
	<i>including people for whom tracing requests were registered by another delegation</i>	6			
UAMs/SCs*, including unaccompanied demobilized child soldiers			Girls		Demobilized children
UAMs/SCs newly registered by the ICRC/National Society		22	6		
UAM/SC cases still being handled by the ICRC/National Society at the end of the reporting period		103	48		
Documents					
People to whom travel documents were issued		1			
PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses)¹					
ICRC visits			Women	Minors	
Detainees visited		16,736	421	72	
			Women	Girls	Boys
Detainees visited and monitored individually		70			
Number of visits carried out		55			
Number of places of detention visited		30			
Restoring family links					
Phone calls made to families to inform them of the whereabouts of a detained relative		28			
Detainees visited by their relatives with ICRC/National Society support		74			

* Unaccompanied minors/separated children

1. Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Zambia and Zimbabwe

MAIN FIGURES AND INDICATORS: ASSISTANCE		Total	Women	Children
CIVILIANS (residents, IDPs, returnees, etc.)¹				
Economic security, water and habitat (in some cases provided within a protection or cooperation programme)				
Essential household items ²	Beneficiaries			
Water and habitat activities	Beneficiaries	582	5%	1%
	<i>of whom IDPs</i>	582		
PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses)¹				
Economic security, water and habitat (in some cases provided within a protection programme)				
Food commodities	Beneficiaries	18,921		
Essential household items	Beneficiaries	18,484		
Productive inputs ²	Beneficiaries	26,798		
Water and habitat activities	Beneficiaries	17,397		
Health				
Number of visits carried out by health staff		238		
Number of places of detention visited by health staff		38		

1. Zimbabwe

2. Owing to operational and management constraints, figures presented in this table may not reflect all activities carried out during the reporting period.