

PRETORIA (regional)

COVERING: Botswana, Lesotho, South Africa, Swaziland



ICRC regional delegation

The ICRC has worked in South Africa since the early 1960s, opening a regional delegation in Pretoria in 1978. It visits detainees of particular concern in Lesotho, South Africa and Swaziland, monitoring their conditions; and helps refugees, asylum seekers and other migrants to restore contact with relatives. It also works with local actors to address urban violence among South African youth. It promotes IHL treaty ratification and national implementation and supports the incorporation of IHL into military training and university curricula, particularly in South Africa given its regional influence. The ICRC supports the region's National Societies in building their capacities.

YEARLY RESULTS

Level of achievement of ICRC yearly objectives/plans of action

MEDIUM

KEY RESULTS/CONSTRAINTS

In 2014:

- ▶ health experts from some 15 countries discussed ways to secure health-care facilities in armed conflict and other emergencies at a workshop hosted by the South African government and the ICRC
- ▶ inmates in selected places of detention in Lesotho, South Africa and Swaziland – including, for the first time, 3 Swazi police facilities – received ICRC visits
- ▶ migrants restored/maintained contact with relatives through National Society/ICRC family-links and tracing services and sought legal assistance/protection through ICRC referrals to relevant organizations
- ▶ South African peacekeepers bound for missions abroad and Swazi police enhanced their understanding of IHL/international human rights norms specific to their duties through briefings/workshops
- ▶ in December, South Africa ratified the Arms Trade Treaty

PROTECTION	Total
CIVILIANS (residents, IDPs, returnees, etc.)	
Red Cross messages (RCMs)	
RCMs collected	137
RCMs distributed	191
Phone calls facilitated between family members	989
People located (tracing cases closed positively)	16
PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses)	
ICRC visits	
Detainees visited	11,358
Detainees visited and monitored individually	39
Number of visits carried out	11
Number of places of detention visited	7
Restoring family links	
RCMs collected	16
RCMs distributed	5
Phone calls made to families to inform them of the whereabouts of a detained relative	10

EXPENDITURE (in KCHF)

Protection	580
Assistance	-
Prevention	1,051
Cooperation with National Societies	449
General	-

2,080

of which: Overheads 127

IMPLEMENTATION RATE

Expenditure/yearly budget	76%
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PERSONNEL

Mobile staff	6
Resident staff (daily workers not included)	23

CONTEXT

South Africa remained influential, politically and economically, within the region and in Africa more generally. It regularly participated in diplomatic initiatives and contributed troops to peacekeeping missions abroad. The country continued to host the Pan-African Parliament (PAP) and other regional organizations, as well as an extensive diplomatic community, regional offices of the UN and other humanitarian agencies, think-tanks and major media agencies.

Socio-economic issues persisted in the region, such as migration and, particularly in South Africa, urban violence and labour strikes. In Swaziland, protests against government policies and limited public services took place occasionally, with the police/military in attendance; there were reports of pre-emptive arrests.

In Lesotho, political tensions in the third quarter of the year resulted in minimal humanitarian consequences. Talks mediated by the South African Development Community (SADC) led to a decision by all parties to hold elections in early 2015.

Botswana held national elections in October.

ICRC ACTION AND RESULTS

The Pretoria delegation focused on reinforcing the ICRC's position as a reference organization on IHL for political/military authorities and other influential actors in the region, as well as promoting broader understanding of humanitarian principles/concerns. It visited inmates in selected places of detention and supported family-links services for migrants.

South African National Defence Force (SANDF) troops and South African Police Service (SAPS) personnel bound for peacekeeping missions abroad were reminded of IHL/international human rights norms, including those related to respect for health services, during predeployment briefings. Discussions continued with the SANDF and SAPS on further efforts to incorporate IHL/international human rights law into their training programmes. Through workshops/dialogue with the ICRC, Swazi police officers deepened their understanding of international human rights norms applicable to their work.

Detainees in Lesotho, South Africa and Swaziland received visits conducted according to the ICRC's standard procedures. As a result of dialogue between Swazi authorities and the ICRC, people held in three police-run facilities in Swaziland were visited for the first time. Following a first visit to migrants at a South African immigration detention centre in 2013, the ICRC conducted a follow-up visit in November 2014. Twenty Congolese detainees from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (hereafter DRC) were visited at Pretoria Correctional Centre; following their release, 15 of them covered their basic needs with ICRC financial assistance. Foreign detainees in Lesotho improved their well-being with ICRC-distributed food/hygiene items and made monthly phone calls to their relatives. To alleviate the effects of overcrowding, the Swazi Correctional Services constructed space-saving beds with ICRC-supplied materials.

Migrants restored/maintained contact with relatives using family-links services, including a newly established phone service at a refugee camp in Swaziland; some benefited from assistance through ICRC referrals to appropriate organizations.

Sustained dialogue with the authorities encouraged their work towards ratifying and implementing IHL-related instruments. In December, South Africa ratified the Arms Trade Treaty. Botswana's parliament passed a bill prohibiting chemical weapons, and continued working on legislation for implementing the Rome Statute. Swaziland began drafting laws on small arms and light weapons and on military firearms/ammunition, applying selected provisions of the Arms Trade Treaty. At a regional meeting, national IHL committees discussed the challenges of IHL implementation.

Networking with diplomatic representatives and regional/international organizations, such as the PAP, enabled the ICRC to promote region-wide efforts to address humanitarian issues. Health experts from some 15 countries discussed recommendations for safeguarding health-care facilities during armed conflict and other emergencies at a workshop in Pretoria hosted by the Department of International Relations and Cooperation (DIRCO) and the ICRC. Discussions took place with the SADC Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation on signing an agreement on cooperation in promoting regional prison management reform and respect for IHL in peacekeeping operations. The Institute for Security Studies (ISS), the International Law and Policy Institute (ILPI) and the ICRC hosted a round-table at which 18 African government representatives prepared a guidance document for composing national statements supporting nuclear disarmament, which were presented at an international conference in Vienna, Austria.

Public awareness of IHL/humanitarian issues grew with lecturers'/students' participation in conferences/competitions and media coverage of ICRC activities. With ICRC support, a South African NGO helped mitigate risks related to youth violence through football and training in leadership and other life skills. Lower crime rates were reported in project catchment areas.

The region's National Societies strengthened their capacities in emergency response and family-links services with ICRC support. Movement components met regularly to coordinate their activities.

CIVILIANS

Swazi authorities deepen their understanding of IHL/ human rights norms concerning law enforcement

Dialogue with the Swazi police emphasized their responsibility to respect civilians' safety and to uphold humanitarian principles during law enforcement operations. Royal Swaziland Police Service officers advanced their understanding of IHL/international human rights norms applicable to their work through ICRC workshops (see *Actors of influence*).

Separated migrant families restore/maintain contact through phone services

Migrants in the region re-established contact with relatives through tracing, RCM and phone services provided by the National Societies/ICRC. Coordination among the region's National Societies and the ICRC remained essential for delivering these services. To enhance their capacities, the National Societies fostered peer-to-peer support and developed initiatives to enhance family-links activities at a regional workshop (see *Harare*).

In Swaziland, migrants and refugees exchanged news with family members in their countries of origin or elsewhere through a newly launched phone service at the Malinza refugee camp; the initiative was welcomed by the authorities and beneficiaries. Nearly 800 calls between relatives were facilitated at the camp.

With ICRC support, the Lesotho Red Cross Society assessed family-links needs in eight border districts where migration to South Africa frequently occurred; activities to address them were planned. Some migrants (89 people in South Africa, 2 in Lesotho) were able to resettle/reunite with their families with travel documents issued by the delegation, as requested by diplomatic missions and other organizations.

In South Africa, the ICRC took over the management of family-links services while also providing support for the National Society's efforts to resolve a financial and managerial crisis (see *Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement*). Plans to hire and train a coordinator for these services were delayed, owing to the National Society's focus on restructuring processes.

Vulnerable migrants referred to pertinent organizations for assistance

Vulnerable migrants in South Africa benefited from referrals to organizations providing legal and/or other forms of assistance. Humanitarian organizations, including the ICRC, met regularly to discuss the migrants' concerns, with a view to lobbying for measures to ensure that unaccompanied minors, women and other vulnerable migrants receive aid. An ICRC study on the challenges faced by Somali migrant women in South Africa confirmed the need to help them address their economic/psychological difficulties.

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

People held in three police-run facilities in Swaziland receive ICRC visits for the first time

Inmates in selected places of detention in Lesotho, South Africa and Swaziland received ICRC visits, conducted according to standard ICRC procedures, to monitor their treatment and living conditions.

Dialogue with the Swazi authorities on the ICRC's mandate and standard procedures, as well as workshops for police officers (see *Actors of influence*), helped increase acceptance of the organization's activities for detainees. As a result, people held in three police-run facilities received ICRC visits for the first time.

Following its first visit to an immigration detention centre in South Africa in 2013, the ICRC conducted a second visit to migrants held

at the centre in November. After discussions with the ICRC, the DIRCO approved a preliminary draft of a memorandum of understanding for formalizing the ICRC's access to the centre; it was then submitted to the Department of Home Affairs for consideration.

Twenty asylum seekers from the DRC held at the Pretoria Correctional Centre in relation to the Regulation of Foreign Military Assistance Act also received ICRC visits. The detaining authorities were reminded of their responsibilities under relevant laws and standards, which included respecting the principle of *non-refoulement*. Of the asylum seekers, 15 were released; they received financial assistance from the ICRC to cover their basic needs. The situation of the remaining asylum seekers who were still detained continued to be monitored by the ICRC.

After prison visits, the ICRC shared its findings and recommendations confidentially with the authorities concerned.

Detainees exchanged news with their relatives through ICRC-relayed RCMs or oral messages. In Lesotho, foreign detainees in Maseru, whose families were unable to visit them, spoke with their relatives on a monthly basis through phone calls facilitated by the National Society. Two Congolese detainees returned from Lesotho to their country of origin, using travel documents issued by the ICRC in coordination with the pertinent authorities.

Authorities take steps to improve detainees' living conditions

The Swazi Correctional Services took note of the findings reported by the ICRC, and pursued measures to alleviate the effects of overcrowding on its detainees. A correctional centre constructed bunk beds with ICRC-supplied materials, including 500 mattresses, to improve the use of space in inmates' cells. Plans to sponsor the participation of Swazi correctional officials at a prison management course in Geneva, Switzerland did not materialize, owing to the unavailability of potential participants. Vulnerable foreign nationals in Lesotho, including 11 security detainees held at the Maseru Central Correctional Institution, improved their diet and sanitation conditions thanks to ad hoc distributions of food and hygiene items. Plans to build new detention facilities stalled owing to the lack of funds; however, the authorities rehabilitated selected prisons with technical advice from the ICRC.

CIVILIANS	BOTSWANA	LESOTHO	SOUTH AFRICA	SWAZILAND
Red Cross messages (RCMs)				
RCMs collected	4		125	8
RCMs distributed	21		164	6
Phone calls facilitated between family members		170	28	791
Names published in the media			1	
Tracing requests, including cases of missing persons				
People for whom a tracing request was newly registered			37	
<i>of whom women</i>			7	
<i>of whom minors at the time of disappearance - girls</i>			13	
<i>of whom minors at the time of disappearance - boys</i>			2	
<i>including people for whom tracing requests were registered by another delegation</i>			2	
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)			142	
<i>of whom women</i>			25	
<i>of whom minors at the time of disappearance - girls</i>			39	
<i>of whom minors at the time of disappearance - boys</i>			6	
<i>including people for whom tracing requests were registered by another delegation</i>			13	
Documents				
People to whom travel documents were issued		2	89	

Discussions took place with the SADC Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation on signing an agreement on cooperation in areas of common concern, such as regional prison management reform (see *Actors of influence*).

ACTORS OF INFLUENCE

Peacekeeping troops deepen their understanding of IHL before their deployment

Over 1,500 SANDF peacekeepers, including those bound for the DRC, learnt more about IHL/international human rights law and the importance of safeguarding access to health care through predeployment briefings and training sessions. Senior police officers enhanced their understanding of international human rights law before their deployment to South Sudan.

Heads of command and staff colleges in Africa learnt about integrating IHL into training curricula for peacekeepers during the annual African Conference of Commandants. During a training exercise, SANDF officers received advice on incorporating IHL in operational planning for peacekeeping operations. SANDF officials reviewed ICRC training proposals for border troops, and SAPS representatives studied ICRC-designed modules on international norms applicable to their duties.

At two workshops, some 80 Swazi police officers learnt more about IHL, international human rights law and international policing standards, including those governing arrest and detention.

Owing to other priorities, plans to enhance IHL/international human rights law instruction capacities in the armed forces of Botswana were put on hold.

Health experts discuss how to safeguard health care during armed conflict

About 30 experts from some 15 countries formulated recommendations for safeguarding health-care facilities and personnel during armed conflict and other emergencies at a workshop in Pretoria, co-hosted by DIRCO and the ICRC for the Health Care in Danger project. At a round-table hosted by the Norwegian embassy in Pretoria, diplomatic representatives recognized the complementarity between the Foreign Policy and Global Health initiative – backed by Brazil, France, Indonesia, Norway, Senegal, South Africa, and Thailand – and the Health Care in Danger project. The SADC Military Health Services and the ICRC discussed possible cooperation on efforts to further promote the project's goals.

South Africa ratifies the Arms Trade Treaty

Regular contact with national authorities in the region aimed to encourage the ratification of IHL-related instruments and their integration into national law. South Africa, which signed the Arms Trade Treaty in 2013, ratified it in December 2014. Botswana's parliament passed a bill prohibiting the use of chemical weapons, and continued to work on legislation for implementing the Rome Statute. Swaziland began drafting legislation on small arms and light weapons and military firearms/ammunition, in line with selected provisions of the Arms Trade Treaty.

Authorities deliberate on ways to address challenges to IHL implementation in the region

The national IHL committees of Lesotho, Namibia, South Africa and Zimbabwe tackled the challenges of IHL implementation at a meeting hosted jointly by the Lesotho committee and the ICRC. Their discussions continued at a regional IHL seminar hosted by the DIRCO and the ICRC, at which representatives from 16 African countries exchanged views on the continued relevance of the 1949 Geneva Conventions for Africa. The national IHL committees of Botswana, South Africa and Swaziland also drew on ICRC expertise in their work. In Swaziland, parliamentarians furthered their understanding of IHL implementation through a briefing hosted by the National Society.

To promote regional efforts to address humanitarian issues, networking with international/regional organizations continued. The SADC Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation agreed in principle to sign a draft memorandum of understanding on cooperation with the ICRC in promoting respect for IHL in peacekeeping operations and regional prison management reform. Dialogue with the PAP was strengthened through contact with the Committee on Justice and Human Rights and cooperation in conducting a training session for parliamentarians. At a regional round-table hosted jointly by the ISS, the ILPI and the ICRC, 18 African government representatives recognized Africa's role in mitigating the humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons and prepared a guidance document for composing national statements expressing support for nuclear disarmament. These statements were presented at an international conference in Vienna, Austria.

South African authorities draw on ICRC expertise to reduce violence-related risks

With ICRC support, a local NGO in South Africa maintained its project to mitigate risks related to violence among young people by encouraging them to play football and develop leadership and

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM	LESOTHO	SOUTH AFRICA	SWAZILAND
ICRC visits			
Detainees visited	1,005	8,736	1,617
	<i>of whom women</i>	83	23
	<i>of whom minors</i>		482
Detainees visited and monitored individually	11	20	8
Detainees newly registered			8
Number of visits carried out	2	5	4
Number of places of detention visited	1	2	4
Restoring family links			
RCMs collected		16	
RCMs distributed		5	
Phone calls made to families to inform them of the whereabouts of a detained relative		10	

other life skills. A study on the project's impact reported a reduction in crime rates in the project's catchment areas. Authorities and academic representatives expressed interest in replicating the project on a larger scale and for a longer period, as they felt that the findings could be used to influence government policies.

Academics and the media broaden awareness of humanitarian issues

University students/lecturers furthered their understanding of IHL through ICRC-produced reference materials, including newsletters, and through participation in conferences such as the All Africa Course on IHL, hosted by the University of South Africa and the ICRC.

At an annual meeting, lecturers in the region updated each other on the integration of IHL into their institutions' curricula. Three university students demonstrated their knowledge of IHL at the All Africa International Humanitarian Law Moot Court Competition (see *Nairobi*).

Following an ICRC-sponsored field visit, a South African journalist reported on the ICRC's work in the DRC and wrote four articles that were published in South African media. Media professionals from across Africa furthered their understanding of IHL and emerging humanitarian concerns at the Highway Africa Conference, the largest annual gathering of journalists in the continent.

RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT

National Societies in the region bolstered their capacities with ICRC material, financial and technical support, particularly in emergency response, family-links services and organizational development, including internal coordination and public communication. Baphalali Swaziland Red Cross teams administered first aid to people injured during protests in April and May. The National Societies in Botswana and Lesotho prepared contingency plans, particularly for elections and in response to political tensions. Movement components gathered at the Southern African Partnership of Red Cross Societies to coordinate on strengthening the region's National Societies' emergency response planning and management skills. The South African and Swazi National Societies pursued organizational stability with ICRC support for restructuring and financial recovery efforts. The Lesotho and Swazi National Societies, with ICRC support, worked towards formalizing their roles as auxiliaries to their governments.

The ICRC continued to coordinate its activities with those of Movement partners and other humanitarian actors, to maximize impact and avoid duplication of efforts.

MAIN FIGURES AND INDICATORS: PROTECTION		Total			
CIVILIANS (residents, IDPs, returnees, etc.)					
Red Cross messages (RCMs)			UAMs/SCs*		
RCMs collected		137			
RCMs distributed		191			
Phone calls facilitated between family members		989			
Names published in the media		1			
Tracing requests, including cases of missing persons			Women	Girls	Boys
People for whom a tracing request was newly registered		37	7	13	2
<i>including people for whom tracing requests were registered by another delegation</i>		2			
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)		142	25	39	6
<i>including people for whom tracing requests were registered by another delegation</i>		13			
Documents					
People to whom travel documents were issued		91			
PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses)¹					
ICRC visits			Women	Minors	
Detainees visited		11,358	107	482	
			Women	Girls	Boys
Detainees visited and monitored individually		39			
Detainees newly registered		8			
Number of visits carried out		11			
Number of places of detention visited		7			
Restoring family links					
RCMs collected		16			
RCMs distributed		5			
Phone calls made to families to inform them of the whereabouts of a detained relative		10			

* Unaccompanied minors/separated children

1. Lesotho, South Africa, Swaziland

MAIN FIGURES AND INDICATORS: ASSISTANCE		Total	Women	Children
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	11		
Essential household items	Beneficiaries	914		

1. Lesotho