

PRETORIA (REGIONAL)

COVERING: Botswana, Lesotho, South Africa, Swaziland

The objectives and plans of action are valid for two years, while the budget presented applies to one year only.

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; 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.

BUDGET IN KCHF

Protection	915
Assistance	-
Prevention	1,030
Cooperation with National Societies	622
General	29
Total	2,596
<i>Of which: Overheads</i>	158

PERSONNEL

Mobile staff	6
Resident staff (daily workers not included)	24



ICRC / APPEALS_2015

 ICRC regional delegation

MAIN TARGETS FOR 2015–16

- ▶ vulnerable migrants, asylum seekers and refugees, including those held in South Africa's main immigration detention centre, benefit from the promotion of measures to ensure their safety, and restore/maintain contact with relatives
- ▶ authorities in Lesotho and Swaziland enhance detainees' treatment and living conditions with the help of the ICRC's confidential feedback/recommendations following its standard prison visits, and with ad hoc material assistance
- ▶ the South African armed forces and the Swazi police advance the incorporation of IHL/international human rights law in their training and operations, aided by courses for instructors and advice on enhancing their training curricula
- ▶ government officials in the region further their understanding of and support for IHL, and grasp the need to promote it, through regular dialogue with the ICRC and technical support for their national IHL committees

CONTEXT

South Africa pursues efforts to exercise influence throughout the continent. It participates in diplomatic initiatives regularly and contributes troops to peacekeeping missions abroad. It is a member of the BRICS group of emerging economies, along with Brazil, the Russian Federation, India and China. South Africa also hosts 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.

The region continues to be afflicted by socio-economic challenges, such as migration and, particularly in South Africa, urban violence and long-running labour strikes. In Swaziland, protests against government policies and limited public services take place occasionally. In Lesotho, political tensions during the third quarter of the year resulted in minimal humanitarian consequences.

The situation in Botswana remains relatively calm.

HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

In 2015–16, the ICRC regional delegation in Pretoria will focus on promoting understanding of and acceptance for humanitarian principles and the Movement, and on strengthening its dialogue with key contacts and organizations in the region. The ICRC will help the region's National Societies to boost their capacities to provide family-links services and respond to emergencies.

Given the continued influx of migrants into South Africa, understanding the resulting humanitarian needs and strengthening family-links services throughout the region, particularly those offered by the Baphalali Swaziland Red Cross Society, will remain essential. Tracing, RCM and telephone services will be made available to migrants, asylum seekers and refugees wishing to restore/maintain contact with relatives and, where appropriate, repatriation/family reunification will be facilitated for unaccompanied minors.

In violence-prone urban areas in South Africa, the ICRC will seek to learn more about the risks to communities, in order to identify and, if possible, promote and support their measures for self-protection.

The ICRC will continue to visit detainees in Lesotho and Swaziland in accordance with its standard procedures. It will also visit people held at the largest immigration detention centre in South Africa: asylum seekers, refugees, migrants and others. It will enable them to exchange news with their relatives through family-links services, and confidentially share its feedback/recommendations on their

treatment and living conditions to the authorities. In Swaziland, the ICRC will help the prison authorities address structural deficiencies, such as overcrowding, primarily through technical support.

To foster dialogue on humanitarian issues, including those covered by the Health Care in Danger project, and to enlist support for neutral, impartial and independent humanitarian action, the ICRC will work to maintain and broaden ties with political and military authorities, regional intergovernmental organizations, embassies/consulates, multilateral fora and humanitarian organizations. In Swaziland, it will continue its dialogue with the authorities and security forces to advance their understanding of their responsibilities during law enforcement operations. To familiarize the general public with humanitarian issues, the ICRC and the National Societies concerned will foster relations with the media, academia and other members of civil society.

The ICRC will work with the region's authorities to promote long-term respect for and implementation of IHL in the countries covered. In addition to conducting pre-deployment briefings on IHL for peacekeepers, it will also contribute to enhancing the training curricula for IHL/international human rights law for South African security forces taking part in peacekeeping operations, and for those deployed at home, including border forces apprehending illegal migrants. It will also offer technical advice for integrating international human rights law into South African border forces' policies and procedures concerning migrants. It will provide legal expertise to governments and their national IHL committees to facilitate the ratification/domestic implementation of IHL-related treaties.

The ICRC will contribute to coordination among Movement partners and maintain relations with UN agencies and other humanitarian actors in fields of common interest, in order to maximize impact, identify unmet needs and avoid duplication of activities.

HUMANITARIAN ISSUES AND ICRC OBJECTIVES

CIVILIANS

In Swaziland, popular protests, caused by frustration and discontent over governance and public services, are often dispersed by security forces.

South Africa remains a preferred destination for various categories of migrants, including asylum seekers and unaccompanied minors, from all over Africa and some Middle Eastern and Asian countries (*see People deprived of their freedom*). They often require help in locating and commu-

nicating with relatives. Urban violence is prevalent in many districts and adversely affects the lives of residents and migrants alike, particularly the latter, who have to compete for scarce resources with host communities and thus are frequently the target of violent attacks.

Objective

Civilians are respected and protected by weapon bearers, in accordance with applicable law. Family members separated by migration are able to restore/maintain contact.

Plan of action and indicators

With the relevant National Society:

Protection

- ▶ in Swaziland, through meetings and workshops, continue dialogue with the authorities and security forces on humanitarian principles and the use of force during law enforcement operations (see *Actors of influence* and *People deprived of their freedom*); relay documented allegations to the relevant authorities for appropriate action
- ▶ discuss the difficulties faced by migrants with South African authorities, including policy-makers, and encourage them to address these issues
- ▶ in selected violence-prone urban areas in South Africa, through discussion sessions, identify and, if possible, promote and support existing measures to mitigate the risks to community members from urban violence; and raise awareness of its adverse consequences, with a view to influencing those responsible for it

Restoring family links

- ▶ offer migrants, asylum seekers and refugees tracing, RCM and telephone services to locate and restore/maintain contact with relatives; whenever appropriate, help reunite unaccompanied minors with their families, including across borders
- ▶ coordinate with UNHCR and the diplomatic missions concerned to issue travel documents to people eligible for repatriation or resettlement in third countries
- ▶ help strengthen the family-links services provided by the region's National Societies and/or community representatives to enable them to deal effectively with the steady influx of migrants needing such services, by these and other means:
 - providing funding, equipment and training – including in new methods/tools, such as the Restoring Family Links Application – and facilitating the development of cross-border coordination via a regional workshop
 - lending technical support for incorporating family-links services in their contingency planning and for enhancing their financial/operational self-sufficiency

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

In Lesotho, because of the prison administration's limited budget, inmates face precarious living conditions. A small group of foreigners convicted of the 2009 assassination attempt on the country's prime minister are serving their sentences in the Maseru Central Prison.

Every year, South Africa receives more asylum applications than it can process; as a result, a large number of people are housed in holding centres. Furthermore, the Department of Home Affairs has tightened measures to protect the country's borders, which leads to the arrest, detention

and deportation of irregular immigrants (see *Civilians* and *Actors of influence*).

In Swaziland, protesters are arrested and temporarily detained at police stations. Overcrowding remains a major issue in prisons, owing to an increase in the number of detainees and the limited means available to correctional services to address infrastructural issues. The revision of the national Prison Act – which aims to improve, *inter alia*, the management of detainees' sentences – has yet to be completed.

Objective

Detainees in Lesotho, South Africa and Swaziland enjoy treatment and living conditions that comply with internationally recognized standards. They can keep in touch with their families.

Plan of action and indicators

Protection

- ▶ conduct standard ICRC visits to detainees in Lesotho and Swaziland, and asylum seekers, refugees and other migrants held at South Africa's largest immigration detention centre, to monitor their treatment and living conditions; pay special attention to security detainees and other particularly vulnerable inmates, such as foreigners, women, minors and the sick; after such visits, share feedback and recommendations confidentially with the authorities
- ▶ enable detainees visited to exchange news with relatives by means of RCMs/phone calls, including monthly phone calls for security detainees at the Maseru Central Prison in Lesotho; help foreign detainees contact their consular representatives and UNHCR
- ▶ support the Swazi authorities in building their capacities in prison administration, by enabling a prison official to attend a course in prison management, contributing technical expertise for revising the national Prison Act and through other means

Assistance

With the relevant National Society:

- ▶ to help the authorities enhance detainees' living conditions:
 - in Lesotho, provide hygiene and other essential items to foreign security detainees and destitute migrants
 - in Swaziland, provide technical advice for improving prison conditions, including repairs to facilities, and offer ad hoc material assistance

ACTORS OF INFLUENCE

South Africa endeavours to remain influential throughout the continent. The government has expressed interest in supporting efforts to address humanitarian issues, such as nuclear disarmament.

The region's armed/security forces occasionally work with the police during internal security operations. In Swaziland, arbitrary arrests and use of excessive force during such operations have been reported. The South African National Defence Force (SANDF) and the South African Police Service (SAPS) contribute troops to peacekeeping operations elsewhere in Africa.

The region's States have national IHL committees and are at varying stages of ratifying and implementing IHL instruments.

South Africa is a media hub and one of the wider region's main sources for regional/international news. In addition to a large diplomatic community, the country has a vocal civil society: think-tanks, business centres and humanitarian NGOs attempt to influence government policies and public opinion, and respond to violence and other cross-border issues. Fifteen ICRC-supported universities in the region offer IHL courses.

Objective

National authorities, the police and armed forces know and respect IHL and other fundamental rules protecting people in armed conflict and other situations of violence, and incorporate these into their decision-making processes. The media, academics, NGOs and other influential civil society groups help foster awareness of humanitarian issues and IHL among the wider public, thus achieving greater respect for human dignity. All actors understand the ICRC's mandate and support the work of the Movement.

Plan of action and indicators

Prevention

- ▶ to foster respect for IHL and international human rights law among the region's armed/police forces:
 - organize predeployment briefings for SANDF and SAPS troops bound for peacekeeping operations and encourage the SANDF command to conduct post-deployment debriefings to review performance, particularly with regard to respecting IHL
 - equip South African security forces to strengthen training in these norms for personnel bound for peacekeeping operations or being deployed within the country, including border forces apprehending illegal migrants; to this end, contribute technical advice for integrating these rules into their training curricula, conduct train-the-trainer sessions and sponsor SANDF representatives' participation in workshops abroad for military specialists
 - through dialogue, offer support for incorporating international human rights law in SANDF border forces' policies and procedures concerning migrants and in their training manual
 - hold dissemination sessions on international norms applicable to their work, including rules governing the use of force in arrest/detention, for selected units involved in law enforcement operations in Swaziland
- ▶ seek to boost support among the authorities, particularly those in South Africa, for IHL, humanitarian principles and Movement action, including the "Strengthening IHL" process and the Health Care in Danger project; in particular:
 - keep South African government officials, particularly the Ministries of Defence and of Foreign Affairs, abreast of IHL-related developments and humanitarian issues, notably nuclear disarmament, and back their efforts to address such matters
 - engage in regular dialogue with government officials and representatives of embassies, UN agencies and regional organizations, such as the African Union, the PAP and the South African Development Community (including its Military Health Services), particularly during the annual regional IHL seminar in South Africa and at other national/regional events

With the National Society concerned:

- ▶ provide technical advice for national IHL committees, particularly those of Botswana and Lesotho, and conduct workshops for PAP members to facilitate peer-to-peer dialogue and help advance, *inter alia*:
 - ratification of IHL-related treaties, such as the Arms Trade Treaty and the Convention on Cluster Munitions (South Africa and Swaziland)
 - domestic implementation of IHL-related instruments to which their countries are already party, such as the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention
 - in Botswana, Lesotho and Swaziland, legislation recognizing the National Societies and ensuring protection of the emblem
- ▶ to generate support for humanitarian principles and Movement action among opinion-leaders and the wider public:
 - maintain contact with the media and other civil society organizations by sharing information on IHL and humanitarian principles, organizing field visits for journalists, sponsoring their participation in an Africa-wide seminar, and other means
 - promote the goals of the Health Care in Danger project and other humanitarian issues through public communication efforts
 - assist universities in strengthening IHL teaching/research and in drawing the attention of decision-makers to humanitarian issues, by: supporting research projects and sharing expertise with scholars; donating IHL reference materials; and enabling teachers/students to participate in events such as the All Africa Course on IHL and the Annual Meeting of Teachers of IHL

RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT

Some of the National Societies in the region are experiencing financial and organizational difficulties that limit their capacity to respond to humanitarian needs, including those arising from natural disasters, protests/strikes and urban violence.

Objective

The National Societies have strong legal bases for independent action. They are able to carry out their core activities effectively. The activities of all components of the Movement are coordinated.

Plan of action and indicators

Cooperation

- ▶ provide the region's National Societies with training and financial/technical/material support to help them, especially those affected by financial/structural crises, to:
 - reinforce their organizational structure, management capacities and legal bases – for instance, by proposing amendments to their respective legal instruments, as appropriate
 - boost their emergency response capacities, focusing on first aid and the Safer Access Framework
 - raise awareness of and generate support for IHL and the Movement, internally and among the public, through such means as radio spots/newsletters
- ▶ coordinate with other Movement components working in the region