



**ICRC**

Regional Delegation, Harare  
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# Bulletin



## The Mission of the ICRC

The International Committee of the Red Cross is an impartial, neutral and independent humanitarian organisation whose exclusive mission is to protect the lives and dignity of victims of armed conflict and other situations of violence and to provide them with assistance.

It directs and coordinates the international relief activities conducted by the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement in situations of conflict. It also endeavours to prevent suffering by promoting and strengthening humanitarian law and universal humanitarian principles.

Established in 1863, the ICRC is at the origin of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.



Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe and Ugandan First Lady, Janet Museveni, visit the ICRC stand after the signing of the Kampala Convention in Uganda in October 2009

Walter AKWATI/ICRC

### ICRC REGIONAL DELEGATION IN HARARE

- Operates in Zimbabwe, Botswana, Namibia, Malawi and Zambia.
- Working in Zimbabwe since 1959.
- Regional Delegation established in Harare in 1981.
- Focuses on protecting and assisting civilians.
- Has been visiting persons deprived of freedom in connection with the situation in the Caprivi region in 1999.
- Has been working in prisons in Zimbabwe since 2009.
- Spreads knowledge of and respect for international humanitarian law among government authorities, armed and security forces, and the general public.
- Helps National Red Cross Societies in the region to develop their capacities in emergency preparedness and response, re-establishing family links between separated family members and public communication.
- 122 delegation, employees and expatriates in Harare and Bulawayo.
- Budget - USD 13million.

## Africa Takes the Lead to Protect IDPs

Zimbabwe is on record as being amongst the first set of countries, that signed the African Union Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in Africa. Also known as the Kampala Convention, it was signed in Kampala, Uganda, at a summit in which African states came together to take the lead internationally in addressing the needs of internally displaced persons (IDPs). To date, the Kampala Convention has been signed by 25 out of the 53 member states, including DRC, Malawi, Namibia and Zambia.

Internal displacement of people is a growing humanitarian challenge around the world. From Afghanistan and Colombia to Sudan and Somalia, internal displacement is generating increasing concern for political leaders, national and international organisations, as well as for the families of the displaced persons themselves. Chaotically uprooted and separated from loved ones, many communities are left unable to meet their basic needs, face a daily struggle to survive and in some cases, are unable to determine if the displaced are dead or alive. This can cause emotional and psychological problems which are often quite difficult to deal with.

The causes of displacement are wide-ranging – conflict, poverty, scarcity of resources and the growing harsh effects of climate change. These factors are increasingly inducing unplanned mass movements. However, the

most persistent cause of displacement is located in violations of international humanitarian law (IHL). IHL is the set of rules which apply during situations of armed conflict to protect civilians and those not participating in conflict, and restricts the means and methods of warfare that can be adopted by the fighting parties.

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) contributed to the drafting process of the IDP Convention, which reaffirms many of the existing IHL obligations to protect IDPs. It however goes further by extending these obligations to both States and non-state actors, enjoining them to respect and protect IDPs. Clear guidelines are set out on how to address the needs of the displaced and all parties to the agreement are required to devise strategies to respond to, and manage emergencies as they arise. It also enshrines the right to safe and voluntary return for IDPs.

Having signed the Convention, States are now left with the two critical steps of ratifying and domesticating this agreement. Drawing on its expertise, the ICRC Harare Regional Delegation is ready to provide support in the countries under its remit in the process of creating domestic legislation to help ensure that the obligations set out in the Kampala Convention are met, and the plight of IDPs across the African continent is improved. ■



## Training of Trainers (ToT) workshop held in collaboration with Zimbabwe Defence Forces

The ICRC and the Zimbabwe Defence Forces (ZDF) continued to cooperate closely to strengthen the ZDF's capacity to deliver teaching on international humanitarian law (IHL) to its soldiers and airmen. In January 2010, the Harare Regional Delegation with the support of the Pretoria-based ICRC Delegate to the Armed and Security Forces, conducted a 10 day training workshop for 22 IHL instructors in the Air Force of Zimbabwe and Zimbabwe National Army at the National Defence College in Harare. The Chief of Staff Operations and Plans of the ZDF, Major-General N. M. Dube, was the guest of honour at the closing ceremony of the workshop and provided the participants with certificates of completion. ■



Some of the participants who attended the instructors' training workshop



ICRC delegate, Christophe Deschard highlights aspects of IHL to the instructors

## ICRC participates in UN Peace Support Operations Course for Malawi Armed Forces

In February 2010, the ICRC addressed over 30 participants of the United Nations Peace Support Operations (PSO) Staff Officers Course on IHL and its Application. The presentation was made during PSOs at the Malawi Armed Forces College in Salima, Malawi. ICRC Regional Delegate, Thomas Merkelbach, provided the officers with a refresher of IHL principles and explored the challenged militaries face when deployed to PSOs.

The ICRC cooperates with armed forces in the region to promote the integration of IHL in military operations, including PSOs. ■

A group of the participants, guests and facilitators of the instructors' training workshop.

**Front row from left:** ICRC Communication Delegate, Adebayo Olowo - Ake; ICRC Delegate to the Armed and Security Forces, Christophe Deschard; Director Training, Air Force of Zimbabwe, Group Captain A. Viyano; Chief of Staff Operations and Plans, ZDF, Major-General N.M. Dube; ICRC Regional Delegate, Thomas Merkelbach; Brigadier-General Training, Zimbabwe National Army, Brigadier-General J.I. Mujaji and ICRC Communication Officer, Tendayi Sengwe.





## Harare City Health Department Holds Strategic Planning Workshop



The City Health Department heads mapping the way forward



A group photo of the participants of the Strategic Planning Workshop held in Nyanga

The ICRC sponsored a workshop for the Harare City Health Department to finalise its strategic plan for 2010-2015. It had been a two-month journey, which culminated in the final editing process in Nyanga from 22-25 March 2010. At this stage of the process, heads of departments came together to finalise the draft document.

The participants enthusiastically discussed various topics. These ranged from Environmental Health Services, Epidemic Preparedness and Response, Health Promotion, Malaria, Maternal and Child Health, EPI, Family Planning and Mental Health to Non Communicable Diseases, Oral Health and Nutrition, as well as Laboratory and Pharmaceutical Services. They noted that the state and stock position of some essential drugs were in need of improvement. Significant progress was made during this time, and on one evening, the

discussions were so intense that the participants worked until 9pm.

The workshop ended successfully on a high note, with the City Health department committing to aim for greater efficiency and effectiveness in carrying out its work. The City Health Department will be the first to have produced its Strategic Plan in the entire City Council, and the decisions reached will be laid out in the joint Plan of Action for 2010-2011. The ICRC, in collaboration with the City Health Department, has been supporting the 12 Polyclinics in Harare by providing medical and non-medical items, training for City Health personnel and effecting improvements to infrastructure such as for water and sanitation. The outcome of this workshop will also help ICRC in defining its own strategic orientations and adapting its approach accordingly in the broader spirit of the partnership. ■

### ICRC's Support to Prison Authorities Continues

April 2010 marked one year of ICRC's work in Zimbabwe's prisons in collaboration with the Ministry of Justice and Legal Affairs. Since then, ICRC has been visiting prisons throughout the country to monitor treatment and conditions of detention, while maintaining constant confidential dialogue with prison authorities on improving these conditions. The organisation has also provided assistance primarily in the areas of nutrition, health, water and sanitation as well as other basic needs.

# Sculpture Exhibition Supports Tengenenge Artists and Zimbabwe Red Cross Society

The village of Tengenenge near Guruve, 150km north of Harare has been described as a “magical place” where raw talent is thriving. People from all walks of life come here to see and buy unique stone sculptures that reflect the beauty of indigenous Zimbabwean artistic expression. On 19 February 2010, Tengenenge seemed to have “relocated” to Harare when the ICRC hosted a sculpture exhibition and auction at its premises with the aim of supporting the activities of the Zimbabwe Red Cross Society (ZRCs) and giving more exposure and publicity to the stone treasures that exist in Tengenenge. An initiative of Thomas Merkelbach, ICRC Regional Delegate and art sponsor Marie Imbrova, the event was well attended by members of the diplomatic, humanitarian, governmental and private sectors of society. Also in attendance were well-known musicians and artists in other fields. Alasan

Senghore, the Head of the Africa Zone for the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), who was in the country briefly, also graced the auspicious occasion, together with representatives with some of the Partner National Societies (PNS) working in Zimbabwe. A total of 30 stone sculptures, the works of the world famous artist community of Tengenenge, were on display. Five of the artists had generously donated some sculptures to be auctioned in order to raise funds to support the ZRCs. The exhibition also gave the ZRCs a platform to raise awareness about its various activities in meeting the humanitarian needs of the most vulnerable groups within the country. ZRCs Secretary General, Emma Kundishora, was impressed with the turnout and remarked that the event was a great demonstration of the spirit of togetherness that exists in the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. ■



Dominic Benhura shares a light-hearted moment with legendary musician Oliver Mtukudzi



Thomas Merkelbach & Alasan Senghore, Head of Africa Zone, IFRC try to outbid each other for the sculpture dubbed “The Chief”



After winning the battle for “The Chief”, Thomas Merkelbach donates it to the Zimbabwe Red Cross Society (ZRCs) and hands over the proceeds of the auction to the ZRCs Secretary-General, Mrs. Emma Kundishora, together with the ZRCs president, Mr Shumba



Guests from across the spectrum attended the sculpture exhibition



ICRC Regional Delegate Thomas Merkelbach discusses with the Deputy Minister of Justice and Legal Affairs, Jessie Majome



Renowned Zimbabwe sculptor Dominic Benhura chats to guests at the exhibition



Marie Imbrova welcomes Mrs Trudy Stevenson, the Zimbabwean Ambassador to Senegal, to the exhibition



⊕ Regional Delegation

+ Sub-delegation



ICRC

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