

SUPPORTING HUMANITARIAN EFFORTS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA IN 2022



The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in Southern Africa carries out humanitarian activities in Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Namibia, South Africa, Eswatini, Zambia and Zimbabwe. Using innovative tools, its humanitarian action aims to address the humanitarian consequences of armed violence and migration; to support authorities to trace missing persons, to reconnect separated families; to strengthen respect for and compliance with International Humanitarian Law (IHL) and international standards of policing; and to improve the capacity of National Red Cross Societies in the region to be first responders to natural and man-made disasters. Through humanitarian diplomacy, the ICRC in Southern Africa builds support for humanitarian action, norms and values amongst policy and decision-makers.

Below is an overview of the impact of the ICRC's humanitarian action in Southern Africa in 2022:



RECONNECTING LOVED ONES MISSING AND SEPARATED BY ARMED VIOLENCE AND MIGRATION

South Africa experiences high levels of migration largely from Zimbabwe and other neighbouring countries, which often poses humanitarian challenges such as loss of contact with family members, unaccounted deaths, missing persons and detainment of migrants in migration centres. In 2022, the ICRC in Southern Africa:

- Provided **10' 434** phone vouchers to migrants held at Lindela Repatriation Centre in South Africa. The service is a relief for migrants as it provides an opportunity to contact their families through free phone calls.
- Facilitated **34' 690** phone calls between migrants and their families in Malawi, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe to initiate, restore and maintain contact with loved ones.
- Provided free internet connections to **29' 321** beneficiaries in Malawi, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe who make use of the internet to maintain family links. Successfully resolved **25** tracing requests of missing persons.
- Issued **70** Emergency Travel Documents to vulnerable people providing an opportunity for them to be reunited with their families or to resettle in another country.
- Supported **247** secondary examinations on unidentified bodies at Johannesburg Forensic Pathology Service as part of the Missing and Deceased Migrants and their Families Programme, leading to the positive identification of **40** persons.



10' 434

PHONE VOUCHERS PROVIDED





DEVELOPING MEDICOLEGAL CAPACITY IN AFRICA TO ADDRESS THE MISSING, SEPARATED, DEAD AND THEIR FAMILIES

The ICRC works with national authorities, African forensic and pathology experts as well as National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies to enhance capacity within Southern Africa to search for, recover and conduct the dignified and professional management of the dead in situations of armed conflict, migration and disasters. In 2022, the ICRC in Southern Africa:

- Trained **200** participants on the use of Isotopes in Forensic cases.
- In South Africa, donated **2** fingerprint kits and trained **8** individuals at the University of the Witwatersrand and Bronkhorstspuit Forensic Pathology Service, and provided photography and fingerprint training to **60** individuals working with the deceased in the Western Cape.
- Trained **36** individuals on the procedures for identification of the deceased at mortuary facilities.
- Trained **26** participants in Good Laboratory Practice to assist forensic laboratories in obtaining accreditation.



200

PARTICIPANTS
TRAINED ON THE USE
OF ISOTOPES





SUPPORTING THE HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE OF NATIONAL RED CROSS SOCIETIES

The ICRC's financial and technical support to the National Red Cross Societies in South Africa, Zimbabwe, Eswatini, Malawi, Zambia and Angola in preparedness and response reinforces their capacities in the region to enable preparedness to provide timely response to humanitarian needs arising from emergencies related to situations of violence. This is achieved through technical, material and financial support. The main areas of ICRC support to National Red Cross Societies include, emergency preparedness through Safer Access sensitization and assessments, Restoring Family Links (RFL), collective support on operational communication that includes promotion of Red Cross principles and humanitarian values, as well as preparedness towards gaining safe access in their response to humanitarian needs arising from other situations of violence. In 2022, the ICRC in Southern Africa:



2' 500

FIRST AID KITS

- Funded and donated **20** first aid kits, **100** Red Cross bibs and **50** flags to the Zambia Red Cross Society; **2' 500** first aid kits to the South African Red Cross Society, as well as **2' 500** first aid kits, **1' 000** Red Cross bibs and **30** vehicle stickers to the Baphalali Eswatini Red Cross Society. ICRC in collaboration with Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners supported the Baphalali Eswatini Red Cross Society's **contingency planning workshop** in May 2022 and further facilitated a consultative meeting in December 2022 with Baphalali Eswatini Red Cross Society and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies ("IFRC") to discuss the civil unrest in Eswatini and the National Society preparedness and response to the humanitarian consequences.

- Supported the **Zimbabwe Red Cross Society election** preparedness for the 2022 general elections with Safer Access and first aid workshops.
- Facilitated the construction and refurbishment of **Restoring Family Links** office spaces for the Zimbabwe Red Cross Society at the Tongogara refugee camp and Beitbridge border operations.
- Supported **cloud server installation** for the Angola Red Cross Society for purpose of the Restoring Family Links program.
- Co-hosted the **Annual World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day** commemoration with the Zimbabwe Red Cross Society and the IFRC. Celebrated the theme #BeHumanKIND, focusing on the commitment of volunteers and staff.



This kiosk which was set up by the ICRC and staffed by the Zimbabwe Red Cross Society (ZRCs), offers restoring family links services, and promotes the mobile app RedSafe.



PROMOTING INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW (“IHL”)



12

STUDENTS
PARTICIPATED IN MOOT
COURT COMPETITION

ICRC

To strengthen respect for International Humanitarian Law (“IHL”), the ICRC works closely with governments, armed and security forces as well as universities to improve awareness and compliance with the law. In 2022, the ICRC in Southern Africa: Over 400 combatants from the military forces of Botswana, South Africa, Zambia, and Zimbabwe, as well as those attending courses at the SADC Regional Peacekeeping Training Centre, benefited from ICRC capacity-building sessions on IHL.

- Over **800** combatants from the South African National Defence Force and Malawi Defence Force deployed to the Democratic Republic of Congo were sensitized on IHL and the role of the ICRC in peace supporting operations.
- **12** law students from **4** universities participated in the 16th Zimbabwean Moot Court competition, co-hosted by the ICRC and the Raoul Wallenberg Institute, and the winning team went on to participate at the All Africa IHL Moot Court competition in Arusha, Tanzania.
- **48** participants from **21** African countries were capacitated on IHL through their participation at the 19th All Africa Course on International Humanitarian Law co-hosted by the ICRC, the University of Pretoria Centre for Human Rights and the University of Pretoria Institute for International and Cooperative Law in Africa.



ENGAGING POLICY AND DECISION MAKERS ON HUMANITARIAN LAW AND POLICY

Working in collaboration with governments, civil society, National Red Cross Societies and other concerned stakeholders, the ICRC seeks to build consensus and support for humanitarian action, norms and values. In 2022, the ICRC in Southern Africa:

- Over **30** government representatives from **13** African countries participated in the 21st Regional IHL Seminar co-hosted by ICRC and the Department of International Relations and Cooperation of the government of South Africa in Pretoria, adopting an outcomes document on promotion and implementation of IHL in the region.
- **30** legal practitioners from Ministries and Departments including Health, Defence and Military Veterans, Justice and Correctional Services, the Police Service, and the National Prosecuting Authority were sensitized on fundamental principles and contemporary challenges to IHL.



LAUNCH OF THE AFRICAN CENTRE FOR MEDICOLEGAL SYSTEMS (ACMS)

In 2022, the ICRC launched the first African Centre for Medicolegal Systems (“ACMS”), a policy and practice platform to mobilise a systematic and humanitarian response to surges in missing persons, disappearances, deaths from conflict, other situations of violence, disasters and migration. As a satellite hub of the ICRC Missing Persons’ Centre, the ACMS in 2022:

- **22** representatives from international, regional (African Union Commission) and national organizations attended the two-day International Organization Consortium Meeting on Justice and Medicolegal Capacity Building in Africa.
- Trained **100** in-person African scientists and a further **250** virtually on DNA laboratory capacity as part of the DNA Symposium in partnership with DNAforAfrica.
- Initiated in collaboration with DNAbiotech the creation of the African Forensic Sciences Academy (AFSA) through a gathering of **15** forensic science experts from various African contexts, the first of its kind in Africa, which will for the first time in Africa represent all forensic science discipline at the continental level.
- The ACMS supported the establishment of a Global Isotope Working Group, consisting of **18** members who meet monthly to discuss developing and collaborating on forensic isotopic research.



- Head of the African Centre for Medicolegal Systems Stephen Fonseca and Wilhelm Fouché, the Assistant Director at the Bronkhorstspuit Forensic Pathology Service during the recording of the Art of Forensics Podcast.

- ICRC's Forensic Specialist Lucinda Evert pictured with Titi Mashao, one of the practitioners who participated and completed the post-mortem fingerprinting training course which was sponsored by the ICRC and presented by Forensic Tools.



- Families of missing persons, staff of the Zimbabwe Red Cross Society and the ICRC regional delegation in Harare participated in the International Day of the Disappeared commemorative event held in August 2022.



- Youth from Rearabilwe Community Development Project planted seeds during the Nelson Mandela Day.



- The ICRC Pretoria Regional Delegation donated mortuary worktables to the Pretoria Forensic Pathology Services to assist in expanding their capacity to deal with day-to-day and mass fatality cases. Pictured here is Wilhelm Fouché, the Assistant Director at the Bronkhorstspuit Forensic Pathology Service, who received the donation on behalf of the Pretoria Forensic Pathology Service together with the ICRC's Forensic Specialist Lucinda Evert and Regional Forensic Manager for Africa Bilal Sabluh.



- Head of Pretoria Regional Delegation Jules Amoti closing off the two-day Consortium African Centre for Medicolegal Systems.

We help people around the world affected by armed conflict and other violence, doing everything we can to protect their lives and dignity and to relieve their suffering, often with our Red Cross and Red Crescent partners. We also seek to prevent hardship by promoting and strengthening humanitarian law and championing universal humanitarian principles.

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Cover photo: Paulin Bashengezi Mushamuka
Marie Mapendo, a mother of four, who hails from the
DRC has been reconnected with her sister. She was
assisted by the Tracing Manager Hendrietta Letlape,
at the Pretoria Regional Delegation.



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