



Facts and figures 2016

ICRC

The ICRC's Pretoria Regional Delegation carries out humanitarian activities in Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Mozambique, South Africa and Swaziland.

Its humanitarian action focuses on visiting detainees to monitor their living conditions and treatment; reconnecting families separated by armed conflict, violence or migration; building forensic capacity to improve management of mortal remains and dignified burial of the dead; engaging policy and decision makers to improve respect for humanitarian action; promoting compliance with International Humanitarian Law; as well as enhance emergency response capacity of National Red Cross Societies.

Below is an overview of the ICRC's Pretoria Regional Delegation work in 2016.

Visiting detainees and maintaining contact between separated families

- Regularly visited the Lindela Holding Facility in South Africa to monitor conditions of immigration detention and address the needs of vulnerable migrants.
- Enabled over 1,000 migrants at Lindela Holding Facility to use the phone service to initiate and maintain contact with their relatives
- Collected 351 Red Cross Messages from vulnerable migrants and distributed 310 of these to their families enabling them to make contact
- Assisted 102 migrants with ICRC Travel Documents to resettle in Canada and United States of America.
- Engaged with detaining authorities in Angola, Botswana, Lesotho and Swaziland to improve the conditions of detention as well as the treatment of migrants or security detainees. This included enabling these detainees to maintain family contacts, and support to the Swazi detaining authorities to improve the productivity of prison farms that supply food to inmates.

Building Forensic Capacity

- Organized the first African School of Humanitarian Forensic Action, attended by government representatives from security forces, the judiciary and forensic practitioners from 9 African countries, in partnership with the Argentine Forensic Anthropology Team (EAAF) and the University of Pretoria.
- Donated forensic equipment to the Johannesburg mortuary in South Africa to improve the management of unidentified bodies including deceased migrants.
- Provided forensic training to UN Military Observers Course of the South African National Defence Forces.

Engaging policy and decision makers

- Organizing a high level visit by ICRC President Peter Maurer to South Africa focused on South Africa's role in promoting respect for humanitarian law and action in Africa, which

included exchanges with Deputy President Cyril Ramaphosa and then Minister of Home Affairs, Malusi Gigaba.

- Strengthening compliance with IHL by co-hosting the 16th IHL Regional Seminar with the Department of International Relations and Cooperation of the Government of South Africa benefitting 30 participants drawn from countries from eastern and southern Africa.
- Co-hosting roundtables with prominent South African think tanks as well as for the media on the humanitarian situation in Democratic Republic of Congo and South Sudan, Somalia featuring senior ICRC operational managers from those contexts.
- Agreed a plan of action with the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Military Health Services to improve training for peace support operations and the management of mortal remains amongst military medical professionals in the region.
- Hosting panel discussions on IHL at the 77th Biennale Conference of the International Lawyers Association in Johannesburg.

Promoting International Humanitarian Law (IHL)

- Supported South Africa National Defence Force courses as well as field exercises including trainings at the National War College, School for Military Justice and the annual International Security Course for armed forces
- Sensitized South African contingents preparing for deployment under United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO) through pre-deployment briefings
- Sponsoring a South African National Defence Force representative to attend the Senior Workshop on International Rules Governing Military Operations (SWIRMO) in Switzerland
- Provided a presentation on IHL at a course for police in the region organised by the African Policing Civilian Oversight Forum (APCOF).

Building Emergency Response Capacity of National Red Cross Societies

- The ICRC continued to provide technical and material support to National Red Cross Societies in the region, notably through supporting
 - a restoring family links pilot project carried out by the South African Red Cross Society in Limpopo Province.
 - emergency response activities carried out during the South African municipal elections in August 2016.
 - a telephone service provided by the Baphalali Swaziland Red Cross Society to enable recently arrived migrants and refugees at Malindza Reception Centre in Swaziland to reconnect with their loved ones.