



ACTIVITIES OF THE ICRC HARARE REGIONAL DELEGATION – 2012

150 years
of humanitarian action



ICRC

IN BRIEF

PROMOTING INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW

Between January and December 2012, the ICRC continued to sensitise key officials in government, civil society and academia about its role in armed conflict and other situations of violence. During this period the ICRC:

addressed over 500 officers from Zimbabwe Republic Police, Zimbabwe Defence Forces, Zimbabwe Prison Services and guests students drawn from the SADC region on International Humanitarian Law (IHL), humanitarian principles and the role of the ICRC in armed conflict and other situations of violence;

participated in Exercise Blue Leopard conducted by Zimbabwe National Army where 300 officers were informed on the role of the ICRC and IHL during peace support operations;

briefed 125 government officials, civil society and military officers participating in courses run by SADC Regional Peacekeeping Training Centre, on the role of the ICRC and the application of IHL during armed conflict and peace support operations;

sensitized 800 Malawi Defence Force troops on the applicability of IHL during peace support operations and the role of the ICRC before their deployment to peacekeeping operations in Cote d' Ivoire;

conducted guest lectures for over 175 media and law students from universities



in Malawi and Zimbabwe to increase their knowledge on IHL, humanitarian action and the work of the Movement;

- networked with national societies, civil society and academics in Malawi and Zimbabwe to enhance their capacity to spread awareness and understanding of humanitarian principles and the ICRC;
- conducted bilateral meetings with national IHL committees of Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Zambia and Zimbabwe aimed at encouraging ratification and implementation of IHL instruments in these countries, and strengthening their understanding of humanitarian principles and the Movement;
- co-hosted the national IHL moot court competition with the High Court of Zimbabwe and sponsored the winning team (University of Zimbabwe) to attend the All Africa IHL moot court competition in Arusha, Tanzania.



VISITING PLACES OF DETENTION

Between January and December 2012, the ICRC:

Zimbabwe

- visited over 15,000 inmates in 47 places of detention to monitor treatment and conditions of detention, confidentially discussing findings with the detaining authorities and proposing recommendations on their improvement;
- supported the cultivation of 200 hectares of legumes (sugar beans, soya beans, cowpeas and groundnuts) and provided seeds, fertilizers and pesticides in 26 prison farms for the 2012 – 2013 planting season;
- provided technical support in project cycle management and farming techniques and for the rehabilitation of irrigation systems to diversify, increase crop yields and food supply for about 6,600 inmates;

- rehabilitated water supply systems and sanitation facilities together with the authorities to improve hygiene conditions for over 4,500 inmates;
- upgraded kitchen facilities in 6 prisons to increase their cooking capacity for 2,165 inmates;
- continued to support the Zimbabwe Prison Service (ZPS) National Medical Store through the donation of drugs, medical equipment, furniture for the refurbishment of 12 prison clinics, stationary and Health Information System forms;
- provided soap and hygiene kits for 13,000 inmates in prisons in Matabeleland to support ZPS Preventative Health Measures Programme;
- sponsored 23 doctors and nurses for a training course on the management of antiretroviral drugs organised by the Ministry of Health and Child Welfare.

Namibia

- visited 121 inmates detained in relation to the situation in the Caprivi Region in 1999 to monitor their treatment and conditions of detention and confidentially discuss findings with the detaining authorities;
- facilitated, in collaboration with the Namibia Red Cross Society, family visits for relatives of inmates in May and December 2012.



HUMANITARIAN ACTION

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) began working in Zimbabwe in 1959 and established its presence in Harare in 1975. Its operations expanded during the liberation war in response to the needs of vulnerable persons affected by the conflict.

Following independence in 1980, the ICRC worked with the authorities to improve knowledge of and respect for International Humanitarian Law (IHL) in government and the armed forces. The institution also worked to strengthen the capacity of the National Societies in the region to meet the essential needs of people displaced due to conflict, other situations of violence, migration and natural disasters.

The ICRC visits places of detention in Namibia and Zimbabwe in order to monitor their treatment and conditions of detention. The ICRC's activities aim to ensure that treatment of inmates and their detention conditions conform with international standards. In Zimbabwe, the ICRC works in partnership with the Zimbabwe Prison Service (ZPS) to increase access to health-care, improve water and sanitation infrastructure and enhance the capacity of prison authorities to meet the nutritional needs of the inmates by increasing production of legumes and vegetables at prison farms.

Today, the activities of the delegation cover Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

SUPPORT FOR HEALTH SERVICES

The ICRC provided support to the 12 polyclinics located in the high-density suburbs of Harare. A population of over 1.2 million people rely on these clinics for primary health care services. During the period January to December 2012, the ICRC's assistance enabled the polyclinics to provide curative treatment to 1.25 million people mainly women and children, as well as 108,876 ante/ post natal consultations and 27,276 deliveries.

ICRC's assistance included:

- improving access to curative health care, immunization and family planning services in the 12 polyclinics through the delivery of drugs, medical and cleaning materials;
- conducting a workshop with the City of Harare on polyclinics waste management to strengthen their capacity in waste management policy formulation for the polyclinics;
- enhancing the skills of 94 health personnel through workshops on "Infection Prevention and Control" and also enhancing the capacity 48 health executives to manage the quality of service delivery in the poly clinics;
- donating drugs and medical supplies to Zimbabwe Association of Church Related Hospitals and the Ministry of Health and Child Welfare.



William Torres/ICRC

COOPERATION WITH NATIONAL SOCIETIES

The Cooperation Department of the ICRC reinforces the capacities of the Red Cross National Societies in Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Zambia, and Zimbabwe to respond to emergencies and to the needs of the most vulnerable.

The main areas of support include the Restoration of Family Links, communication/dissemination of Red Cross values and principles towards various publics and emergency preparedness and response.

The ICRC's support to National Societies included:

- orienting staff of the Malawi Red Cross Society and Zimbabwe Red Cross Society on aspects of safer access, communication, First Aid Training to enhance emergency preparedness;
- providing the Malawi Red Cross Society and Zimbabwe Red Cross Society with financial and technical support.



RESTORING FAMILY LINKS

Refugees from the Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda, Somalia and other African countries who have sought refuge within the region exchanged approximately 668 Red Cross Messages with their families. In addition to this, a Restoring Family Links (RFL) service newly introduced to migrants held in places of detention in Zimbabwe resulted in 84 selamat messages (short messages) the ICRC sent to the families informing them about where the inmates are.

Red Cross Messages, selamats and other RFL services offered by the ICRC and national Red Cross Societies, assist families to restore contact after being separated as a result of fleeing a war, situations of violence and other regular and irregular migration situations.

The Harare Regional Delegation together with Pretoria Regional Delegation of the ICRC conducted a workshop to enhance the capacity of 9 national Red Cross Societies in the region to re-establish family links during emergencies.



STRENGTHENING HUMANITARIAN MINE ACTION

The ICRC and the Zimbabwe Government collaborate in the area of humanitarian mine action to improve the existing skills, capacity, equipment and the personnel of Zimbabwe Mine Action Centre (ZIMAC) to meet the Government's obligation under the Mine Ban Treaty to survey, clear and destroy all anti-personnel mines in the country.

Between February and December 2012 the ICRC:

- trained 54 military officers from the Zimbabwe National Army who are involved in humanitarian mine action on current international standards to improve the safety, quality and productivity of on-going ZIMAC demining operations;
- donated 50 sets of mine detection and protective equipment to ZIMAC for use in humanitarian demining;
- trained medical teams on trauma response and donated 5 medical trauma kits;
- provided technical support to ZIMAC for the production of Zimbabwe National Mine Action Standards.



Tendayi Sengwe /ICRC



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Mission

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) is an impartial, neutral and independent organization whose exclusively humanitarian mission is to protect the lives and dignity of victims of armed conflict and other situations of violence and to provide them with assistance. The ICRC 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 Geneva Conventions and the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. It directs and coordinates the international activities conducted by the Movement in armed conflicts and other situations of violence.

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International Committee of the Red Cross

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