



Southern Africa: Facts and figures 2017

ICRC

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in southern Africa carries out humanitarian activities in Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Its humanitarian action aims to address the humanitarian consequences of armed violence and migration; monitor treatment and conditions of detention; trace the missing and reconnect separated families; strengthen respect for and compliance with international humanitarian law (IHL) and international standards of policing; improve the capacity of National Red Cross Societies to respond to natural and man-made disasters; and build 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 2017.

PROTECTING AND ASSISTING COMMUNITIES AFFECTED BY ARMED VIOLENCE

In 2017, the ICRC in partnership with the Mozambique Red Cross Society (CVM):

- Distributed essential household goods, farming tools and agricultural inputs to 91,600 people displaced by armed violence in Manica and Sofala Provinces;
- Rehabilitated 3 clinics in Bárue and Gorongosa districts, improving access to health care for 74,000 people;
- Repaired 2 ambulances to support health outreach activities benefitting 74,000 people in Gorongosa and Bárue districts;
- Provided access to safe drinking water to 36,000 people by repairing or drilling 36 hand-pumps in Bárue, Gorongosa and Maríngue districts and rehabilitating a small water supply system at Piro Health Centre, Gorongosa District;
- Donated 1 motorbike to the Gorongosa District Service of Planning and Infrastructure to facilitate access of technicians to the villages to assist water committees in maintenance of hand-pumps.

ASSISTING VULNERABLE MIGRANTS, RECONNECTING FAMILIES AND TRACING THE MISSING

- Maintained a constructive dialogue with the South African authorities at Lindela Holding Facility on the detention of migrants with a focus on the provision of medical care,
- Assisted vulnerable migrants of 30 nationalities at Lindela Holding Facility to make 970 phone calls to their relatives;
- Followed up individually on the cases of 149 unaccompanied minors in Malawi, Zambia and Zimbabwe and made systematic efforts to trace their families;
- Launched a pilot project to trace missing migrants in South Africa, resulting in 34 cases of missing Zimbabweans being registered and assistance being provided to trace their loved ones;
- Enabled vulnerable migrants in Malawi, South Africa and Swaziland to initiate, restore and maintain contact with their relatives, resulting in 2,755 phone calls being made;
- Supported the Angola Red Cross Society to provide a phone service to Congolese refugees in northern Angola, enabling 1,650 calls with their families;

- Equipped Johannesburg mortuary's identification laboratory and trained the identification team to strengthen systems and processes for identifying missing and deceased migrants in South Africa;
- Co-hosted the second annual African School for Humanitarian Forensic Action with the University of Pretoria, Pretoria Forensic Pathology Service, Government of Argentina and Argentine Forensic Anthropology Team in South Africa, which was attended by local and international forensic experts;
- Sponsored 20 African forensic science experts to attend the annual conference of the African Society of Forensic Medicine annual conference in Bloemfontein, South Africa.

VISITING DETAINEES

- Visited detainees in Angola, Lesotho, Namibia and Zimbabwe to assess their treatment and living conditions and provide recommendations to the detaining authorities on their improvement;
- Supplied rations of groundnuts, sugar and soya beans to complement detaining authorities' food supply for more than 18,000 inmates in Zimbabwe;
- Provided technical and material support to enable enhanced agricultural productivity on 200 hectares of land on 30 prison farms, producing enough to feed 17,000 inmates in Zimbabwe;
- Trained 100 prison officers at the Zimbabwe prison authorities' request on internationally recognized detention standards, techniques to improve prison food supply, and how to address the needs of inmates with mental health challenges;
- Provided a phone service to 79 foreign detainees in Lesotho and Zimbabwe, enabling them to establish and maintain contact with their families.

ENGAGING POLICY AND DECISION-MAKERS

- Co-hosted roundtables on the humanitarian situation in the Lake Chad Basin and Yemen for the South Africa-based diplomatic community and civil society;
- Convened a roundtable of officials from governments, civil society and the diplomatic community based in Pretoria, South Africa to prepare elements for a common Africa position on the prohibition and elimination of nuclear weapons;
- Provided technical expertise in support of a coordinated initiative by relevant stakeholders to develop a set of Guidelines for the Safe Delivery of Health Care Services during university protests;
- Provided briefings and shared field based experiences from key ICRC operational contexts and on issues that shape the humanitarian agenda with public authorities, civil society and the media.

PROMOTING RESPECT FOR AND COMPLIANCE WITH INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW AND INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS OF POLICING

- Trained over 1,800 members of the armed forces from Malawi and Zambia on IHL, international human rights law and principles of the Red Cross Movement before deployment on UN peace support missions;
- Provided IHL training for junior and senior officers at training institutions of the national defence forces of Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa and Zimbabwe;

- Conducted a workshop in partnership with the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Military Health Services Committee on the management of human remains to build capacity of the region's military health specialists deployed on peace support operations;
- Co-hosted with the South African Department of International Relations and Cooperation the 17th Annual Regional IHL Seminar, which brought together over 40 participants from 17 countries in southern Africa;
- Conducted two trainings for Station Commanders and/or Deputy Station Commanders of the Mozambican police deployed in Manica, Sofala, Tete and Zambezia provinces;
- Hosted the 15th All Africa Course on IHL for 20 African academics and post-graduate students, providing a comprehensive overview of the IHL principles;
- Co-hosted the Zimbabwe National IHL Moot Court Competition for four universities in partnership with the High Court of Zimbabwe and the Law Society of Zimbabwe.

WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP WITH NATIONAL RED CROSS SOCIETIES

- Supported National Red Cross Societies across the region with financial and technical expertise to build management capacity at the national headquarters and implement key programmes, including:
 - Providing a telephone service for migrants in Musina, South Africa
 - Deploying Angola Red Cross Society volunteers to during national elections and to address needs of Congolese refugees in Lunda Norte province;
- Conducted capacity-building initiatives focused on ensuring safe access of board members, staff and volunteers in Red Cross responses to natural and man-made disasters in Angola, Mozambique, Zambia and Zimbabwe;
- Supported the Namibia Red Cross Society to represent the Red Cross and Red Cross Movement during natural disasters through its participation in the SADC military exercise, Blue Kunene.