



# ICRC

**ICRC Statement on the extension request of Zimbabwe  
Third Review Conference of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention,  
Maputo, 23 June 2014**

As has been mentioned both in Zimbabwe's extension request and in the presentation by the Zimbabwean delegation today, since February 2012 the ICRC has been providing support to Zimbabwe to help it overcome some of the challenges to fulfilling its Article 5 obligations.

The government of Zimbabwe extended, until the end of 2014, the 2012 cooperation agreement it signed with the ICRC. The agreement provides for building ZIMAC's capacity on the management of the national mine-action programme, the development of a joint strategy for training support and the provision of equipment. A detailed Plan of Action was designed to provide a clear framework to ICRC support to ZIMAC activities with the aim to further enhance demining operations in contaminated areas along the border with Mozambique, and consequently reducing the humanitarian impact of weapon contamination.

There is a stark contrast between the situation in early 2012 and the one we observe today. The pace of clearance has increased dramatically with two new operators, NPA and Halo Trust, adding to the work done by the national mine clearance units. All operators are now implementing the national mine-action standards, which were drafted with ICRC support before being adopted by the Zimbabwean Government in 2013. These standards, which are in line with recommendations from the Twelfth Meeting of the States Parties, serve as a guide for conducting humanitarian mine-action activities in compliance with the International Mine Action Standards.

In 2014, the ICRC conducted a training of trainers course to 10 demining instructors in mine clearance and the proper disposal of mines/ERW. They are now qualified to train future NMCU deminers. Furthermore, two ZIMAC staff in charge of the mine action data management benefited, with the financial support of the ICRC, from a training organised by the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD) on the Information Management System in Mine Action. This will contribute to the capacity of Zimbabwe to effectively report on survey outcomes in accordance with the past and current extension requests.

As we speak, the ICRC is training 15 ZIMAC officers in quality assurance and quality control procedures in order to boost the national capacity ahead of expected land releases.

The ICRC has been as well supporting Mine Risk Education activities carried out by ZIMAC to members of affected communities (5,300 persons) along Zimbabwe's north-eastern border with Mozambique.

The ICRC welcomes the progress made in mine action in Zimbabwe since 2012 and encourages the authorities to complete the survey process to allow for the development of a strategic plan with all stakeholders. This plan should also promote increased resource mobilisation aimed at securing domestic and international financial support for mine clearance, mine risk education and victim assistance.

The ICRC delegation in Harare will soon start discussing with Zimbabwean authorities for continuing its support to Zimbabwe in 2015.