

**Notes for ICRC Statement on the extension request of Zimbabwe
12th Meeting of States Parties to the Mine Ban Convention,
Geneva, 4 Dec. 2012**

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 under the Mine Ban Convention.

On 13 February 2012, the Government of Zimbabwe and the ICRC signed a one-year Memorandum of Understanding for the development of Zimbabwe's mine action capacity. This agreement incorporated three elements: capacity building for the Zimbabwe Mine Action Centre (ZIMAC); training and equipment for the National Mine Clearance Unit; and training and equipment for the Medical Support team seconded to the National Mine Clearance Unit.

In March 2012, demining management training was provided to 12 Senior Engineer Officers from ZIMAC and the Zimbabwe Military Engineer Group. This training involved an introduction to Humanitarian Mine Action programme management and development in accordance with International Mine Action Standards.

In April-May 2012, the ICRC provided a 7-week train-the-trainer course on humanitarian demining and survey for 22 junior officers and senior non-commissioned officers from the National Mine Clearance Unit. The training increased the capacity of those officers to incorporate IMAS in their training of deminers involved in humanitarian mine clearance operations.

In July 2012, the ICRC retained doctors and staff from Zimbabwe's Medical Air Rescue Service (MARS) to conduct training for seven medical personnel from the Medical Support Team of the National Mine Clearance Unit in the provision of emergency treatment to deminers who may be injured during operations.

On completion of the medical training, in mid-July demining and medical equipment was donated to the National Mine Action Authority of Zimbabwe (NAMAAZ), which comprised of personal protective equipment, minimum metal mine detectors, deminers tool kits, trauma medical packs with intubation equipment and stretchers.

In November 2012, the ICRC programme manager accompanied two ZIMAC personnel to an IMSMA course in Mozambique provided by the GICHD. This programme is crucial for increasing Zimbabwe's capacity for information collation and dissemination. The two participating students from ZIMAC staff passed the A1 level course.

Most recently, on 23 November 2012, six officers and seven senior Non-Commissioned Officers of the Zimbabwe Engineer Group completed a three-week intensive course on Quality Assurance and Quality Control. The majority of students passed at national staff grade level.

The ICRC is also supporting the establishment of National Mine Action Standards and Standard Operating Procedures on Humanitarian Demining. We hope that these documents can be finalised by February 2013 so that international demining NGOs can commence their survey and clearance operations.

The ICRC, through our delegation in Harare, will continue its support to Zimbabwe in 2013 and the precise details of this support are currently under discussion with the Zimbabwean authorities.